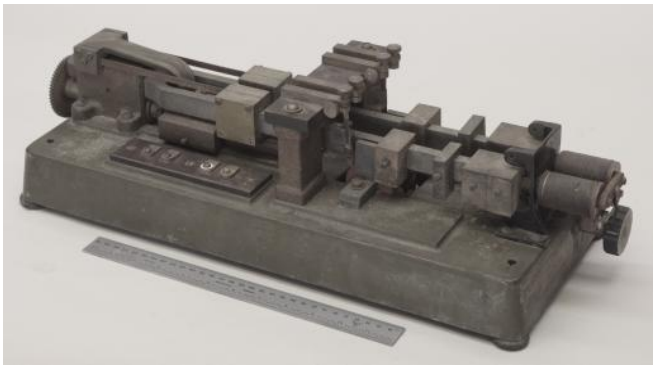
Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter
August 2025 — Issue 187



No April Fool's joke. Read about the Telegraph Tuning Fork starting on page 11.

President's Message

I recently acquired a K3S. I've been looking for one quite a while now to replace my ageing K3 but not many UK Elecraft users seem to have been upgrading to a K4 and that has led to a

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

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

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

CWops Officers and Directors
President: Stew Rolfe, GWØETF
Vice President: John Glover, W2QL
Secretary: Jim Talens, N3JT
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, K9CT
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Director: Ken Tanuma, JN1THL
WebGeek: Dan Romanchik KB6NU
Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

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dearth of used K3s over here and particularly the upgraded 'S' variation. I noticed this one in the used section of one of the major dealers: not cheap but in nice condition with 3 months warranty and a very late serial number too. I've gambled on it lasting until I run out of turns on my coil, and I have the original plus a second bare bones K3 as backup. Laying out serious money on a discontinued radio may seem a questionable move but I feel I've been around long enough now to justify being a bit cavalier with my finances so what the heck. My kids can look after themselves now – one is a clinical psychologist and the other a captain with a shipping company that moves radioactive materials around the globe. Despite what they claim occasionally they don't need our cash although both myself and XYL reserve the right to spoil the grandkids.

I got my first piece of Elecraft kit in 2007. I needed a new radio and the pedigree in CW with the renowned support and backup was the decision maker for me. The day I opened up the web page to place my order for a K2 I was surprised to be confronted by a new splash page about the brand new K3. That threw me and it took a couple of days of thinking before I changed the order to a K3 with the 2nd receiver on back order. In those days I was still being sensible but the extra cost was partly justified by these being the heady times of $2 to one UK pound. The day K3 #145 arrived I became a member of a de facto gang of quasi gamma testers suggesting software mods, reporting glitches and trialling new hardware and tweaks. Seemed I was on first name terms with some of the technical crew at Aptos for a while and it was a fun couple of years. And it cemented my impression that these were dyed in the wool CW folk. A couple of years ago knowing I had an ageing K3 with plenty of air miles under the hood and showing its age I bought a top notch SDR transceiver from one of the big three. Really nice radio which beat my K3 on several fronts but I soon discovered an undocumented design feature that affected the quality of the CW keying. Wasn't a killer but it niggled and the refusal of the manufacturer to even consider a simple firmware workaround (a specific setting change from global to per-band) didn't help that niggle. These just didn't feel like CW folk to me and it was eventually sold on and the K3 was back on the bench. Opening up both K3 #145 and the new K3S to migrate the 2nd receiver and DVR voice recorder (least time at the mike the better..;-) was like visiting an old friend. I'm sure we'll be very happy together..

It was nice to read about a couple of youthful new members in last month's *Solid Copy*. I shared a shack with Jamie MØSDV some years ago at one of the GR2HQ stations in the IARU HF World Championship. He was probably still a teenager at the time but was clearly comfortable nonchalantly working through CW pile-ups even then. We have a few youngsters in our ranks such as Megan EI5LA (#3163) who is still only 18 years old and like Jamie was a competitor at WRTC in Italy two years ago (we don't record our members' ages so I can't recall any others). I was listening to a few competent young CW operators in the recent YOTA contest and it was inspiring to hear one 13 year old Hungarian running streams of callers with ease. I wonder sometimes about the stories behind these youngsters: how they find the time and motivation to reach such levels amongst the obligations of school/college and impending careers, along with the many distractions around now that maybe didn't feature when many of us were that age. And how can the rest of us help and encourage? Some will have family connections but others will be on their own so if you have a roomy shack and suitable circumstances you could help a budding young ham on their way. I'm sure many will have interesting stories to tell of their so far short ham radio journeys and I know Dick would be delighted to find room in these pages; I would certainly enjoy reading them as many of you surely would.

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You may already know that Enzo MØKTZ is stepping away from the QTX column. I'd like to thank Enzo for his hard work and effort which has helped raise the profile and interest in conversational CW over the last 3 years. I will miss his regular entertaining and insightful columns and hope he will continue to inject enthusiasm into CWops ragchewing. Enzo is helping Dick during the transition after which there will be a new "chewer-in-charge".

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

Editor's Note: QTX

The QTX column, *QTX: Enjoying The Art of Conversational CW*, is entering a period of transition over the next couple of months. We extend our sincere thanks to outgoing manager Enzo, MØKTZ, and warmly welcome Dan, KB6NU, as he steps into the role.

Enzo, MØKTZ, has decided to step down from his responsibilities as QTX Manager, where he oversaw both the program and the monthly column. His writing has consistently reflected a deep passion for CW and the joy of ragchewing, whether drawn from his on-air experiences or the stories shared in his inbox. Like many of us, Enzo balances his dedication to amateur radio with commitments to family and career, and we appreciate the time he gave to the QTX column.

Starting next month, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, will take over the column and program. Dan is well-known among CWops members and the broader amateur radio community. As "The CW Geek," he's on the air daily, aiming for at least one QSO per day. He also serves as the CWops webmaster and has access to the online submission database for obtaining participants scores and soapbox comments.

Beyond the airwaves, Dan is a prolific author, trainer, and blogger. His experience and writing skills promise to bring fresh perspectives to the QTX column. We look forward to learning more about his background in his first column next month.

As Editor, I feel fortunate that we're able to transition seamlessly from one well-qualified contributor to another. And you, our readers, are the true beneficiaries.

Thank you, Enzo, for showcasing the heart of ragchewing in every column. Welcome, Dan—we're excited for what's ahead.

73, Dick **N9EEE,** (CWops #3113)
Editor, ***Solid Copy*** (SolidCopy@cwops.org)

Ops News and Notes

Duncan (Mac) Fisken, G3WZD

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

A condolence card has been sent on behalf of CWops.

Derrick Webber,
G3LHJ #3048
on 4th August 2025

Welcome to another Ops News and Notes, but sadly a painfully thin mailbag this month with only three submissions from members. Perhaps it's a case of Mea Culpa for not sending out my customary reminder?

*This is **your** column to tell us what you have been doing of interest; perhaps an exciting new piece of kit, an unusual POTA/SOTA operation or a particularly noteworthy QSO.*

The column can only exist with your support, so please keep the items coming. Early submissions are welcome as there's no need to wait until the Editor's monthly call for articles or my reminder.

Remember also that 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. Thank you!

Jim N3JT #1 Many thanks to Dirk, WN7S #1945 for the generous donation to CWops.

Ciemon G0TRT #3429 You may not be aware that there is a sub-group for UK CWops members, and only a third of potential members are on that list at https://cwops.groups.io/g/CWopsUK. Traffic is very low, but it is useful for dealing with UK specific things. Please consider joining.

Claudio I4VEQ (non-member) emailed us to say "It is always hard to get this trophy but last year we got it. TNX Jim and all the CW Operators Club".

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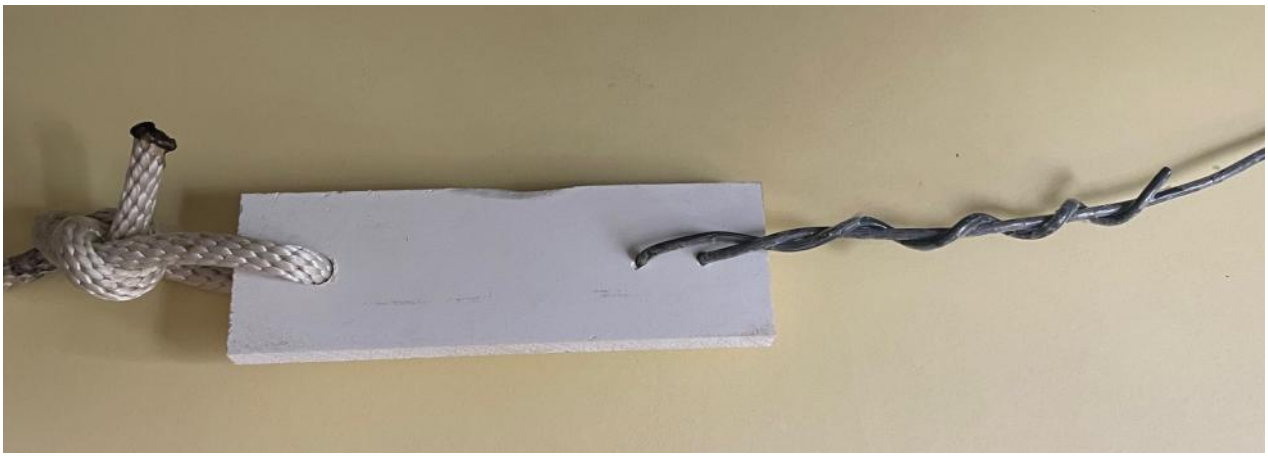
Jack W1WEF #48 Here's an idea inspired by NA8V for a simple antenna insulator with advantages over conventional wire antenna insulators.

Greg makes them out of acrylic plastic but I had some AZEC building material on hand and used it on some wire antennas I've had up for a few years. First, I had to rip the 2 in by 6 in piece of Azec to about 5/16 thickness. I use 5/16 braided nylon to support my wire antennas , so I drilled a 5/16 hole near one end. Don't melt the end of the nylon until after you get it through the hole. Melting the end of nylon line keeps it from fraying. I tie the support rope with a bowline.

Now for the unique part. I drill two holes about 3/4 in apart in the other end, just the right diameter for my insulated copper antenna wire to fit through. The end of the antenna goes through the hole nearest the end of the insulator, and back through the other hole with extra length to wrap around the antenna wire.



When checking the antenna SWR, if it's OK I tape the end of the wrap. If it needs lengthening or shortening, just push the wire back through the holes as needed. The wrapped wire doesn't affect SWR.

The advantage of this scheme in addition to easy length adjustment is the strain relief from going through the two holes. There is no amount of tension that will pull the wire out of the insulator!

Jacques KN6VQ #3748 "Hello CWops! I'm writing to you today to thank the club, and especially the members, for sponsoring the USA Rookie plaque for the 2024 CQWW CW contest.

For someone like me, in my location and with my station, the Rookie category might be the only chance in my ham radio career to be awarded a plaque in a worldwide contest. To get one in my final CQWW as a rookie is truly a thrill. The overlay categories are such a vital part of making contests fun for everyone, and CWops sponsorship of so many of them is an incredibly generous way to give back to the hobby.

What makes CWops sponsoring this award even more special is that I recently graduated from the Advanced CW Academy course with Buzz AC6AC #1911, and was accepted into CWops as member #3748. I had such a wonderful time with Buzz, the Co-Advisors, and my classmates as we worked hard to get better at CW. I feel like I made some long term CW friends, and will forever be grateful for that experience.

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Again, I would like to extend my greatest of thanks to CWops for sponsoring this award, and the plaque will occupy *the* spot of honor on the wall of my shack. Hope to hear you all on the air soon.

Allen N2KW #421 (a memory to share) **THE DXCC COUNTRY THAT NEVER WAS**

Back in 1976, a Brooklyn dentist named "Doc" Levitt (W2RAK/WB2NDI) probably put the first "POTA" station on the air, when he received authorization from the Department of the Interior and the FCC to operate a Special Event Station, commemorating the Bicentennial, from Liberty Island. The Callsign was WL2USA, and QSL was via LIMARC.

Doc probably didn't realize it at the time, but Liberty Island met all the criteria for inclusion on the DXCC list! The island does not belong to NY or NJ. The US Department of Interior gave the operation it's blessing, exactly like Desecheo, but in New York harbor.

It was during the operation that the ARRL Awards Committee realized the implications.

But at that time (probably still) the official policy for consideration as a new "entity" was that the matter wouldn't be considered until someone submitted a QSL card for credit.

We are not privvy to communications between Newington and Plainview, but the cards took almost a year to arrive, and the DXCC rules were amended in the interim so the operation no longer qualified. The card is certainly a collectable, but (unfortunately) NOT eligible for DXCC credit. R.I.P. Doc!

Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

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

2025 CWops Scholarship Recipient

Brennan Long, K6BFL (CWops #2340)

Thank you for reaching out and for this incredible honor. I'm truly grateful to have received the CWops scholarship; it means a great deal to me and will help make my time in college less stressful. Even for in-state students, tuition is expensive, so this support will make a significant difference.

My name is Brennan Long (K6BFL), and I've been passionate about amateur radio since earning my license at age 12. Now 20 years old, I hold an Extra Class license and have been a CWops member for several years (member #2340). I joined shortly after I began learning Morse code and quickly became an active participant in the weekly contests, something I still enjoy whenever I'm able.

Throughout my ham radio journey, I've been fortunate to operate from many exciting locations, including PJ2Y in Curaçao, as well as taking part in numerous contests, DXpeditions, and special events, most notably 3D2Y and 9A0YOTA. These experiences have deepened my love for the hobby and connected me with an incredible community of operators around the world.

Outside of amateur radio, I'm pursuing a B.A. in Computer Science with a minor in Information Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. I'm an active member of our cybersecurity club and recently completed a summer internship at Parsons Corporation as a software engineer, where I gained valuable industry experience.

I'm deeply appreciative of CWops for supporting students like me. This scholarship not only helps alleviate the financial burden of college but also encourages me to continue growing both academically and within the amateur radio community. I am always eager to meet other ham radio enthusiasts who are in the computer science world, and I would love to connect for future career opportunities.

Thank you again for this opportunity and all CWops does to inspire and support operators worldwide.

73,

Brennan Long, K6BFL

University of Colorado (class of '27)

K6BFL456@gmail.com

CW Open – Sept 6, 2025

The CW Open annual contest is now just around the corner. If you have not yet cleared a few hours to operate, it is now time to compare the Session schedule and your schedule and perhaps make a few adjustments so you can join in the fun. As most of you already know, the CW Open contest is comprised of three individual sessions, each four hours long. These sessions are all on September 6, and spread across a 24-hour period to level the propagation playing field globally. Here is the schedule for the three sessions.

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)

Below are a few of the contest details, but for a complete description go to: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/

- **Each session is separately logged, checked and awarded. Three separate contests!**
  - Please check to see how the award qualification process has changed for 2025
- **Who:** Open to all amateur radio operators, worldwide
- **Modes:** CW only
- **Operator categories:** Single operator
- **Power categories:** HP (more than 100 watts); LP (more than 5 watts up to 100 watts); QRP (5 watts or less)
- **Use of spotting:** No limitations on using clusters, RBN or skimmers, but please, no self-spotting.
- **Exchange:** QSO number + given name (e.g. 12 John).
- **Scoring:** 1 point per QSO per band (each session); 1 multiplier for callsign the first time it is worked (each session). Scores start at 0 for each session. Work someone once per band per session.
- **Reporting:** Separate logs for each session. Logs must be in Cabrillo format and may be submitted via https://cwops.contesting.com/ Paper logs are NOT accepted!
- **Logging:** CW Open is supported by many logging programs. See https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/
- **Teams:** Team competition is supported (see https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/#team for signup). No geography limitations. **(PLEASE REGISTER YOUR TEAMS EARLY TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH!!)**

Hope to get you all in my log on all 3 Sessions and on many bands!!

73, Bruce N1LN, CW Open Manager

How We Were

Ian Capon, GWØKRL

K1VR, Fred Hopengarten, CWops #57

“WN1NJL at age 10, in 1956, in Newton, Massachusetts. My first station was an S-38B, and a single 6L6 QST design built and sold to me by the ham who is now W1PR. The antenna was 65’ of bell wire out the window at a height of 12 feet. Note the J-38 using zip cord as the key.”

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)

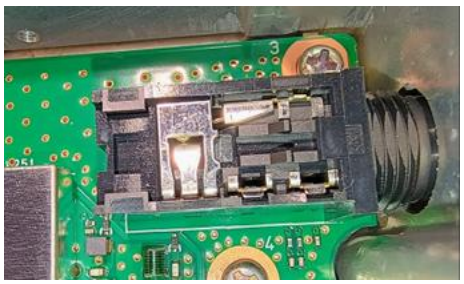
ICOM IC-7300 Key Input Repair

Jared Corgan, W7AQB (CWps #3774)

During a recent CWT, while working on getting sponsorship for CWops membership. I had just completed an exchange with KKØU and was sending the W in my call to W8XAL when the keyer on my IC-7300 stop responding. It stuck on, blipped, then quit – no dits, no dahs, nothing. I swapped keys and cables and tried fiddling with the break-in settings, hoping I had bumped something or set something wrong by mishap. After doing a "reset all" and swapping keys around again the next day with no change, I decided to remove the twelve screws needed to pop the cover off and take a look inside.

Diving into the schematic, I traced the key input jack contacts on the RF board to the CPU. I began by checking the continuity of the rings and tip on a key cable to the contacts on the jack, finding no issue. Next I decided to check the path on the board from the key jack to the ribbon cable that connects the RF board to the Main board. The connectors on the board are labeled but none of the diminutive discrete surface mount ferrites, resistors, or caps associated with the key signal path are indicated. Not being familiar with the pin numbering for the ribbon cable connector did help much either. I probed around a little at random, counting pins, nothing quite matching up. At the connector, two rows of surface mount ferrites, resistors, and capacitors bordering both sides of the middle section of the connector provided a hint. Comparing that to the schematic, I found that the first and last set of pins on the connector did not have discrete components connected to them. It hit me, the pins numbering alternates side to side. I was able to trace the key connector contacts to the their respective pins – which read a reasonably low resistance, not indicating a fault between the key jack and ribbon cable connector. One more thing associated with the jack to check – ground. Sure enough the jack contact read an open to ground. This also seemed to corroborate the loss of both dits and dahs and not one or the other. The only component inline with the path to ground on the schematic is a 0 ohm resistor. Not being familiar with how 0 ohm resistors are normally used, I asked Copilot AI. To which it answered, that they are often used as a workaround or routing aid. The 0 ohm resistor did lie near a via, so I am guessing this is the case.

Problem identified – open 0 ohm resistor (R201 on the schematic), now the fix. I took a clipped lead I had sitting around, gooped some gel flux on the resistor, and soldered the lead across the contacts of the resistor. This took me three attempts since the resistor was so small and I could not easily tell if I had got the solder to stick to it or not. I was able to check it by wiggling the lead to see if it popped off. Trimming the lead, I replaced the cover, hooked my key up and was able to get a response from RBN.



Key Jack

Ribbon - Cable RF to Main boards

Failed Resistor

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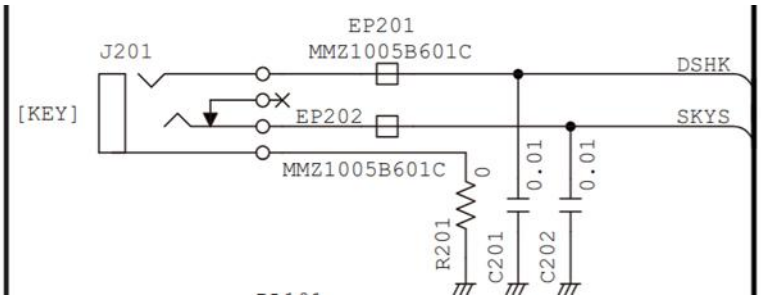
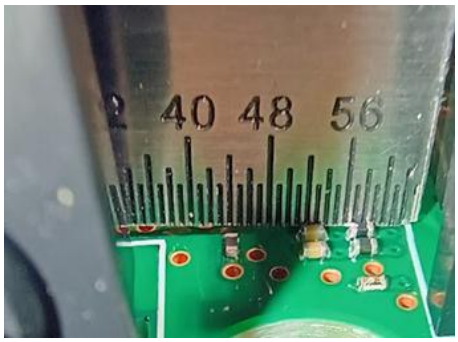
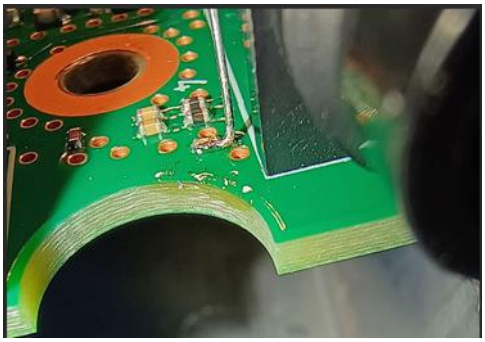


Schematic portion showing R201



Dimension reference 1/64ths



Lead Soldered across resistor

SC

Study of a Telegraph Tuning Fork

Gary W. Johnson, NA6O (CWops #1345)

Terrestrial telegraphy required countless inventions, and one of the more unusual devices from that industry is the subject of this report. I am calling it a Telegraph Tuning Fork (TTF) because I can find no better description at this time. It came to me via a friend who got it from a fellow who collected surplus equipment, in particular from the Navy's Mare Island facility near Vallejo, CA. Considering the history of the facility beginning in 1854 and the Navy's extensive use of all forms of communication, this could indeed be the provenance of this item.

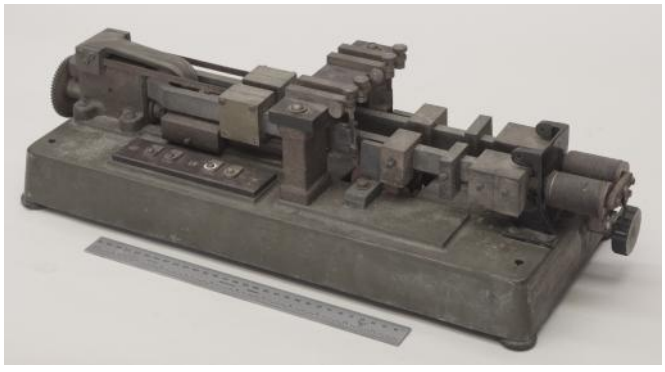


Figure 1. My mystery instrument.

Who Made It and When?

There is a partial label on the instrument,

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seen in Fig. 2. It was made for The Western Union Telegraph Co., so indeed it has something to do with telegraphic communications. Its manufacturer turns out to be D. & H. Precision Tool Co. in Newark, NJ. This company was founded no later than 1918 by Mr. DeSaules and Mr. Hall, and still exists today as D & H Cutoff Co. So perhaps it was made in the early 20th century. Someone skilled at identifying early electrical components may have an opinion.

Figure 2. This label gives us a starting point.

Searching online, the closest match to my device was located at the Smithsonian (Fig. 3). They identified it as a *telegraph tuning fork*, and the maker is Western Union Co. It does have some of the basic features and clearly we are on the right track for identification.

Figure 3. Photo from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, identified as a telegraph tuning fork [Ref. 1].

Overview of the Instrument

Figure 4 is an annotated top view that identifies the major components. The base is of cast bronze and the entire device weighs about 35 pounds. The main structure is literally a long, heavy tuning fork fabricated from steel and anchored at the left end. A series of weights adjust the resonant frequency. A large electromagnet (MAG-1) resides under the fork, with pole pieces just outside of the arms so that when energized the arms are pulled outward. Clearly this is the excitation method. Two sets of SPDT contacts are actuated by movement of the forks. At the far right end is a pair of coils (MAG-2A and B) that apparently are used to sense motion of the forks. Four terminal strips provide connection points.

A clever gear-driven mechanism slides tuning weights along the forks, thus allowing the resonant

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frequency to be adjusted while the forks are in motion. I located a patent [Ref. 2] "Adjustable-Vibration Tuning Fork" assigned to Western Union Telegraph Co. in 1923 that describes this mechanism. Due to age and corrosion, the mechanism is frozen, and no attempt was made to restore it.

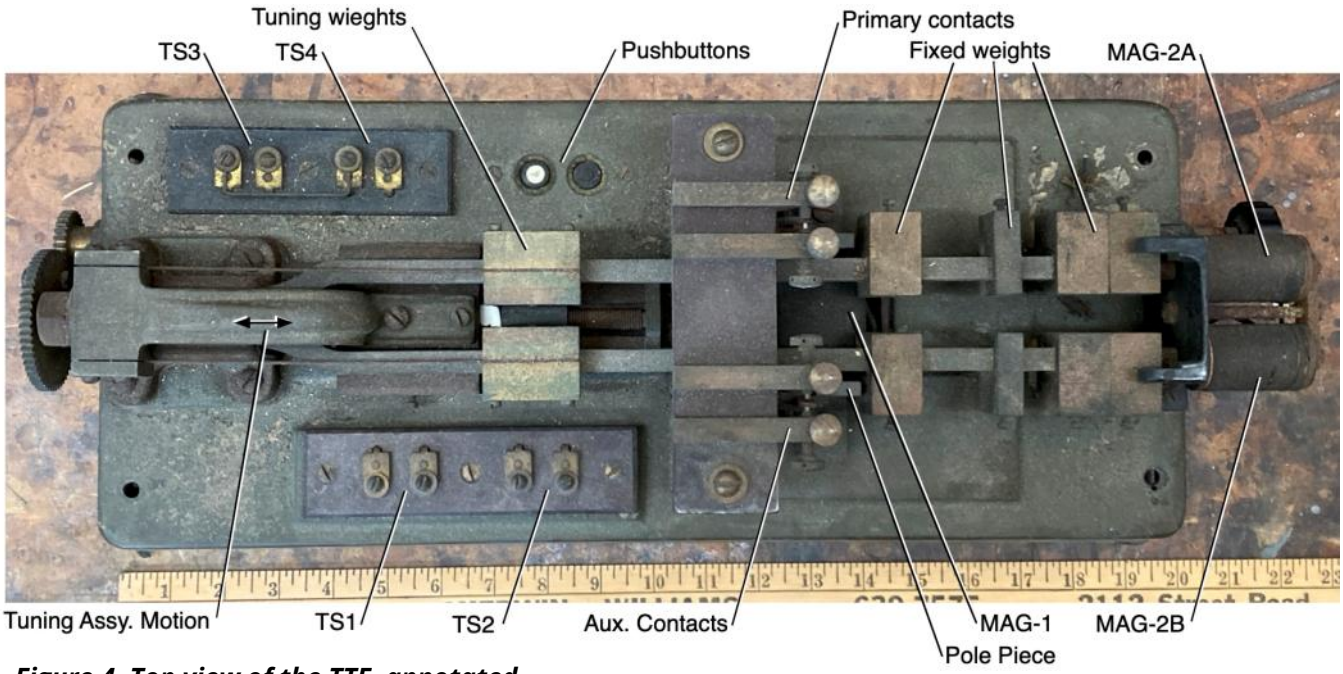

Figure 4. Top view of the TTF, annotated.

Looking at the bottom of the device in Fig. 5, a number of electrical components are identified. Three identical capacitors, C1-C3, are all marked 1 uF and in fact tested good despite their age. A stack of three resistors, R1-3, measured 150 Ohms. A pushbutton module is connected in series with MAG-1, so that may be considered the on/off switch for excitation. I didn't have a suitable instrument for measuring inductance but did measure the resistance of each coil.

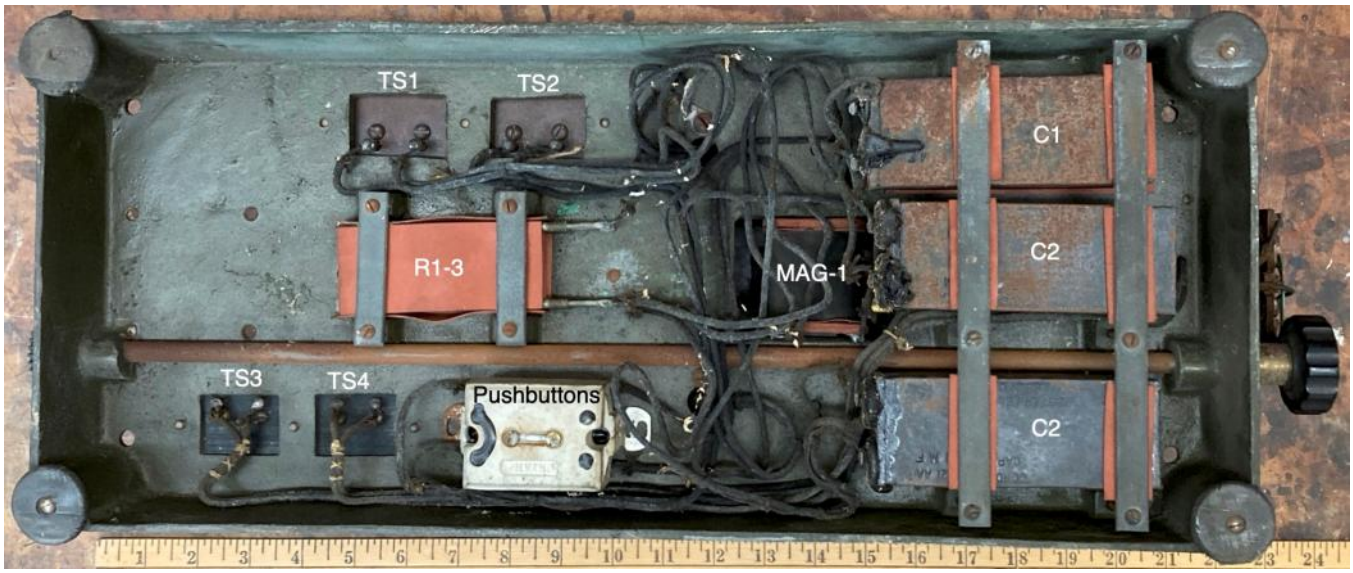

Figure 5. Bottom view of the TTF, annotated.

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Analysis and Operation

After identifying components and doing some wire tracing, a schematic was produced (Fig. 6). Operation is simple. Starting at rest with S2 closed, an applied voltage produces a current in MAG -1, forcing the forks to move outward, which opens S2. Current collapses, allowing the forks to move inward, then the cycle repeats. This is a kind of *relaxation oscillator* and will preferentially operate at the resonant frequency of the mechanical system. C1 and R1 form a *snubber* circuit which suppresses arcing when the contacts open.

A second set of contacts, S1, also has snubber on each side and connections are simply routed to a terminal strip TS2. These could be used to synchronize an external device with the vibration of the forks.

Coils MAG-2A and B are connected in series and brought out to TS3. They could be used for monitoring oscillation. TS4 is routed to a pair of wires that are disconnected on this instrument. There are some mounting holes in a black bracket above MAG-2A and B that may have held a now-missing device.

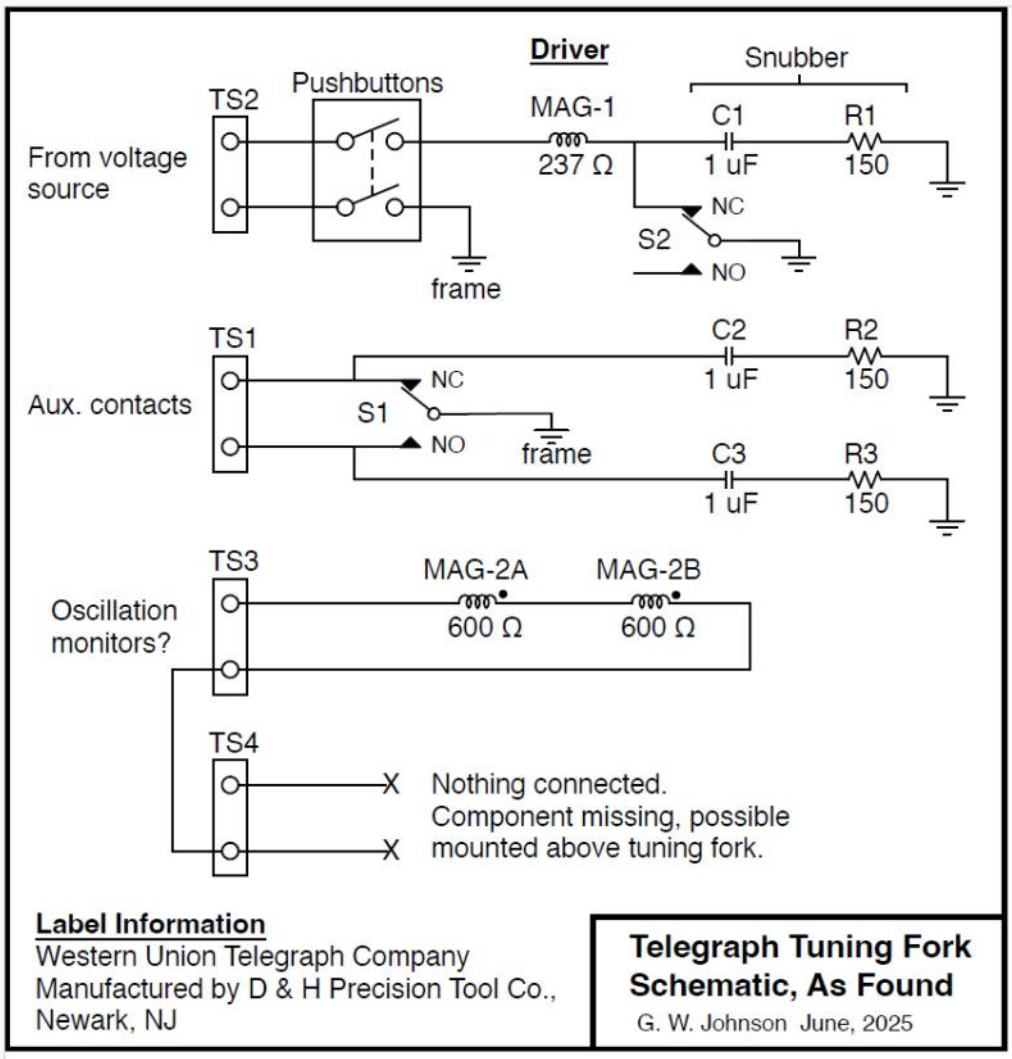

Figure 6. Schematic diagram of the TTF.

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Even after a hundred years or so, this instrument is still functional! Some cleaning of contacts at S2 and terminals at TS2 was all it required. Connecting a DC power supply and beginning at 40V, I slowly adjusted the contact spacing and the forks sprang to life, with a current draw of just 10 mA. With further adjustment, I found that the TTF would start and run as low as 3 V. Amplitude was roughly proportional to excitation voltage. Sitting on the bench, it made a low purring sound with no vibration felt in the base due to careful dynamic balancing of the forks.

Connecting MAG-2A and B to an oscilloscope, I observed oscillation at exactly 30 Hz. Considering the mass of the tuning forks, this should be a very stable oscillator, drifting only slowly with ambient temperature changes. Assuming the forks are made of ordinary steel, I estimate that the temperature coefficient of frequency is about -24 ppm/degC.

What is it For?

Little information on "telegraph tuning forks" can be located with a web search, but a number of interesting uses are suggested in a patent search. One fundamental application is *synchronous telegraphy* where the two ends of the connection rely on stable, matched oscillators to encode and decode transmitted data. More importantly, such synchronization allows *multiplex telegraphy* where several independent data streams may be sent down a single wired connection In one patent [Ref. 3], a TTF is shown at each end of the link with its auxiliary contacts causing a large rotary switch to advance with each pulse. In effect, the rotary switch dynamically chooses among several sender-receiver pairs in a kind of time-sharing arrangement.

As time went on, manual sending and receiving of Morse code was sometimes replaced with faster automated transmission consisting of punched tape at the sending end and a variety of receiving devices. Synchronous timing is very important and once again the TTF appears. We would now call it a clock oscillator. By the way, these same mechanisms were also used for teletype data.

Long terrestrial lines are problematic due to signal loss and distortion. What was needed is an amplifier of some sort, but that did not exist prior to the invention of the vacuum tube. So an electromechanical *repeater* was devised. The patent in Ref. 4 relies on synchronous telegraphy where the transmission occurs at a fixed frequency, and uses a TTF as a sampling device to pick out the best part of each signal pulse. The auxiliary contacts then produce a nice, clean output for retransmission.

This turns out to be an important and useful invention in the telegraph industry. Being a telegrapher myself (radio, to be exact), these devices are fascinating. If anyone has additional information about the TFF, I'd love to hear about it. I have donated this device to the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum in Windsor, CT.

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References

1. National Museum of American History, “Telegraph tuning fork”, Cat. No. 331340. https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object/nmah_890715
2. Walter A. Houghtaling, “Adjustable-Vibration Tuning Fork”, U.S. Patent No. 1,466,623, 1923.
3. Poul La Cour, “Synchronous Telegraphy”, U.S. Patent No. 302,502, 1884.
4. Herbert Angel, “Regenerative Telegraph Repeater”, U.S. Patent No. 1,673,726, 1928.

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gwj@me.com | https://na6o.com/
iPhone 925-399-2789

SC

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)

New Members

Trung Nguyen, W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name
3770	WG9P*	Mike	3775	F5RDS*	Oli	3778	KQ1O*	Santi
3773	W8CS*	Craig	3776	VA3EKR*	Scott	3779	W1NGO	Noah
3774	W7AQB*	Jared	3777	W4ARB*	Aaron	3780	K6ZZ*	Bob

* Lifetime member

As of August 6 2025:

Need Sponsors:

Invitations Extended: K4FR

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

GW2CWO	GØOER LY2BVM	G4TVH G3OJL	ON5GL ON5REV	DK7FZ F4DBC	G4TFF HB9DAX	ON4AAQ	OH3GZ
JG1UQD	JG2HPG JI6MDA	JJØXEQ	JM1IPX	JL2SQK	JJ2KJN	JJ5TAW	N6TI
JJ1FXF	JM1MKH RØLIQ JA1BNT	JJ1RFJ JS2OVO VK5WB	JK1MVC JR3RHI VK4DLP	JG1BGT JJØSFV JA2JIL	7J1ATG/1 BH3OQQ BG2KZP	HL1MIM(2) JJØXEQ JA2JIL	JM8QGN JA4IIJ
JK1QYL	JJØSFV(2) JRØDIL JA4IIJ JK1WCW	JM1MKH(2) JO7WDP JA6GLB	JM1IPX JS1CII 7J1ATG/2	JL2SQK(2) JH9DMD/4 JF0RRH	W6BBD JK6UPC JG1BGT	JA2JXB JR3VFU JJ0XEQ	W9AC JA4EDV/1 JA3AMM
JM4AOA	HL1MIM JI6MDA JQ3FRX(2)	JA7BWV JJØSFV JRØCWZ	JE3AIE JJØXEQ JR3RHI	JF2EVE JJ5TAW JS2OVO	JF7NWP JL1STV JS2RLB	JH0ONE JM8QGN(2) JS6THD	JH4VGS JM1IPX
JO1DGE	BI4JCR JI6MDA JM2LOF	HL1MIM JJ0SFV(3) JQ3FRX	JA3EBL JJ5TAW JR2FBM	JA6BZH JK1WCW JR6SBI	JA8LFL/1 JL1DZP JS2OVO	JG1BGT(7) JL2SQK(2) KE7LOY	JE6JAO JM1MKH
K7NJ	W8HOM KW4FAB LU7YG WAØJJC	K5ZBR W8MP KA7VMA	WB7ALA K7NTK KX2P	KO6FPR K9FN KJ5LMU	N6OND KØJOM KJ5LSN	KA6B KZ7O KK7SKW	K5TF WO6W WA5GUL
MØWDD	DF1HC/P G3ZRJ	DJ5TG G4GHL	DL7USW/P MØASN	GØFHK MØIYP	GØUBE MØTJU	G3SHF M7GNO	G3UNC OK1JFP
W7IY	K1ZTE	KC3RN	K8WHA	K4UX			
W8OV	W8OSK	NP4IW/W6	KBØLF	NM5M			
7J1ATG	JK1QYL	JJØSPV	JA4MRL	JN7DOR	JI6MDA	JA1SJR	
7L2VPL	KE7LOY	N6VOH	JA5FGC				

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7N2XZB	JG1BGT(3)	JR3VFU	JM3LOF	JA1LNQ	JA4IIJ(3)	JA7IIZ	JE6AJO
	HL1MIM(2)	JJ0XEQ(2)	KE7LOY(2)	BI4JCR(2)	JM8QGN	JJ1ANG	VK2OP
	JA1BNT	JS2IMR	JE2JXR	JI6MCI	JA5FGC	JJØSFV	

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				
	JG1GBT											
TUE												
	JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB								W8OV			
WED												
	7J1ATG							N8DD				
THURS												
	7N2XZB			SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	JG1BGT							W7IY				
FRI												
	JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO		N2GSL	AAØYY		K6RB	
						MØWDD						
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
	JG1UQD											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
	7L1VPL											

CW Academy

Bob Carter, WR7Q and Roland Smith, K7OJL

This month we have two topics. First, classes being taught in languages other than English, and secondly, congratulations to the students successfully completing the 2025 January / February semester classes.

Classes in Languages Other than English

The demand for Beginner and Fundamental classes in languages other than English is growing. While English is often considered the universal language of the airwaves, CW Academy is committed to meeting the needs of a global community of students.

Two years ago, this initiative began when advisor Manos Charlaris, SV1DAY, proposed translating the Beginner curriculum into Greek and teaching a class in that language. Due to work commitments, Manos was unable to teach this semester, but Giannis Martsoukakis, SV1PMQ, has graciously volunteered to lead the Greek language classes. German language classes quickly followed this successful start.

In a further step to expand our reach, we recently received a proposal to teach Beginner Level classes in Catalan—a language spoken in the Catalonia region of Spain, Andorra, and other locations. Additional languages have also been requested, demonstrating the vibrant, international interest in learning CW.

This fall classes are being taught in Catalan (EA5IYL and EC6PG), Polish (SP5NZF), Greek (SV1PMQ), and German (DF2OF and DL1RS). To support this growth, Roland K7OJL, is updating our computer programs to accommodate specific language offerings and to allow students to request classes in a particular language.

If an advisor is interested in teaching a class in a language other than English, please contact Bob Carter WR7Q (contact information at the end of this article), to work out the details and verify sufficient demand. It is our policy that once a language is offered, it should be an ongoing part of our curriculum in future semesters.

Thanks to modern translation tools, the curriculum can be quickly and effectively adapted into new languages, making this expansion possible. We are enthusiastic about these new opportunities and anticipate continued growth in demand for classes in a diverse range of languages.

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Congratulations to the 2025 May / June Semester Graduates!

281 students were enrolled in CW Academy classes for the 2025 May / June semester. 235 students successfully completed the class. CW Academy congratulates the following students:

BEGINNERS (75)

Abdulsalam, Omar (EI2LD)
Adkins, Gene (K4EL)
Alexiadis, Alexis (SV4RQO)
Andersen, Eric (KQ4CCC)
Anding, Jeff (KG5EED)
Anjiolino, Eduardo (PY2MP)
Baibakis, John (SV1PIZ)
Bates, Marlin (N6MIV)
Batson, Ross (KE5OBS)
Black, Eric (AK6LW)
Boatman, Mary (KK4HMX)
Borba Onofre, Thiago (KQ4ZWO)
Bowen, Cacey (K7KCB)
Brier, John (K4EB)
Brown, Michael (KF4YHC)
Chivers , Chuck (VE3VSA)
Creelman, Kyle (VE3KHD)
Crisp, Sandra (AI5WL)
Curtis, Bob (KFØHOD)
Das, Debajyoti (VU3LGT)
Denny, Mark (KK7NLA)
Doss, Connor (WØDOS)
Drenth, Hendrik H. (N4HHD)
Fasoletos, Norman (K7NWF)
Fijolek, Zbyszek (SP5ZF)
Fletcher, Brendan
Futch, Donald (WR4O)
Gallagher, Gregg (KQ4JEZ)
Gentsch, Linda (KFØNZX)
Gorski, Maxwell (MAXGO)
Grabiec, Tomasz (2EØTZG)
Green, Peter (GØABI)
Gulish, Peter (K1NEM)
Hagen, Pat (N8BAP)
Harper, Gary (G5IGD)
Jackson, Linda (W4CMW)
Jiang, Piaoran (VA7KHL)
Karathanos, Geo (SV1CQL)
Karavatas, Spiridon (WX9T)
King, Jarod (N5JKK)
Leone, Nick (W4PNK)
Liebman, David (K2DML)
Litz, Tiffany (K7BAE)
Loftin, Richard (KK7DEQ)
Maestas, Rick (KD5HVU)
Mayes, David (KJ6LNN)
Mccarn, Todd (KQ4SGV)
Miranda, Omar (ND1Q)
Mitchell, Joe (WA5FFL)
Moritz, Eric (K3FNB)
Nardone, Ottavio (KC1PFU)
Ochoa, Arturo
Paslaski, Joel (KO6HSK)
Perry, Bill (KJ5GOO)
Petithomme, Bob (K1RLP)
Piechowski, Rod (KE9ROD)
Pouli, Aikaterini (SV2TCC)
Primavilla, Alessandro (IUØRFZ)
Richardson, Tom (N3BGG)
Robinson, Judy (KR4BRH)
Robinson, Julian (AF9D)
Robinson, Warren (ABØHX)
Rothwell, Colin (W3RCL)
Rowe, Laron (W2ELS)
Simons, Ronald (K5MUL)
Smith, Gary (VE4YH)
Smith, Patricia (AA8J)
Vinson, Earnest (VA3EWV)
Walton, Curtis (NR3G)
Wandira, Wayan (YD9BAX)
Warren, Joseph (K5IDJ)
Wilhelm, Jim (WW5L)
Williams, Jay (W8JAY)
Williams, Michael (N6WAI)
Wood, Lisa (W7LWD)

FUNDAMENTAL (51)

Amedio, Dominick (K2DAA)
Ang, Paris (VE3BNO)
Antion, Bob (ND4P)
Bieder, Juergen (DL4RBR)
Black, Cliff (K4JIP)
Booth, Jane (2MØIZS)
Bradley, Michael (MØXRY)
Brink, Jan (PA4J)
Buetow, Kevin (WA9MTY)
Burls, Clive (MØKNP)
Carley, Jason (KJ7DMI)
Child, Greg (KE8ZGS)
Chtchepotko, Alexander (DD1ADZ)
De La Cruz, Gilbert (KO4VTJ)
Dunsford, Mark (2EØOIW)
Elawar, Munir (N3PQ)
Gibson, Mark (N4MQU)
Hagerdon, Randy (N3YYZ)
Hennessy, John (VK6TEA)
Herridge, Van (N4VGE)
Hudson, Glenn (K2JW)
Kaszyca, Kamil (SP5LEG)
Kish, Jd (KFØNWC)
Klo, Jim (N6KRJ)
Kosciolowski, Arkadiusz (SP3GTR)
Kreiner, Paul (AD2IL)
Krogstad, Martha (KEØTL)
Leitch, Will (GI6HKE)
Lentz, Deanna (N9ASN)

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Martin, Andrew (AJ7CM)
Mcelhannon, Matt (WM4TT)
Morgan, Jeffrey (KM6RGO)
Nickols, April R C (KA7ARC)
Olbrych, Peter (KR4CGG)
Olejnik, Remigiusz (HF1RF)
Payne, Shawn (W4LTE)
Redfern, Bruce (VE7KMG)
Rice, Ericson (KO4DIT)
Sachnowski, Tomek (SP5BOM)
Salazar, Arthur (KO6ETV)
Seth, Ishir (DN9LT)
Shin, Nathan (KC3GRO)
Skjong, Stein Helge (LA4JRA)
Smith, Kory (N3ZKI)
Stahm, Bill (AH6WG)
Swint, Matthew (K2MAS)
Van Eckert-schoof, Johanna (DJ5YL)
Wojtysiak, David (AI7VM)
Wolf, Bryce (AD9GG)
Zamor, Josh (N7SWE)
Železo, Pavel (OK1OO)

INTERMEDIATE (58)

Adling, Markus (DO4AMN)
Agache, Florin (YO3AX)
Alexander, Robin (W7YED)
Andrews, David (KQ4EFU)
Ayre, Peter (G4TFF)
Bear, Jonathan (KB3CEB)
Benesh, Andrew (KM4CAJ)
Biernacki, Mark (KB5YZY)
Brenner, Kenneth (K9ZI)
Brinkrolf, Markus (HB9TMM)
Bullis, Kent (N2HH)
Butchko, Peter (KA3IHC)
Casagrande, Fabio (PY2TEN)
Caulfield, John (KØFUZ)
Consorti, Jean (AD2EK)
Danner, John (KY4WW)
Dastoor, Phiroze (KD5YIA)
De Olaguibel, Jp (VA3JPI)
De Risio, Marcelo (N2YHQ)
Dobkowski, Andrzej (SQ2HZ)
Donahue, Patti (KE7IR)
Downing, Richard (K6ZGN)
Dyer, Kirk (KD1MD)
Emery, Tracey
Eversmeyer, Todd (NN4KW)
Foster, Bary (AH6II)
Greco, Cosmo (AK6DL)
Harvey, Tim (VA3UZ)
Iacobelli, Francisco (KX9F)
Jacobson, Evelyn (WBØVHF)
Johnson, Steve (KN6HI)
Jones, Mark (GØMGX)
Kerr, Gary (G5TCP)
King, Roger (MØLKR)
Könz, Flurin \"lui\" (LB8TJ)
Leung, Jonathan (VA7JC)
M., Richard (YO3GND)
Nevins, Byron (NB6D)
Nicholls, Bradley (M7GNO)
Papciak, Doug (KI4VDU)
Pascal, Greg (W6DHQ)
Pavlovski, Mishel (Z31PM)
Peters, Art (KØACP)
Romagnano, Stefano (IV3JKE)
Rüdiger, Andreas (DK6EE)
Schauff, Ralf (DL1RS)
Sisco, Paul (KF4RPJ)
Sobalvarro, Guillermo (HK4KM)
Sulonen, Kevin (N7KV)
Thomas, Daniel (HSØZQP)
Tiwari, Manish (VU2EH)
Turner, Butch (KAØWWT)
Uludag, Fahrettin (TA1HAM)
Vera, Andrew (KT4ZT)
Ward, Jonathan (G8GD)
Winkler, Wes (W4JYK)
Wylde, Steven (KX6J)
Yosua, Dave (AD8LM)

ADVANCED (51)

Auvinen, Alexandra (AC9XK)
Bayani, Brian (KT3X)
Behar, Jacques (KN6VQ)
Brooks, Brian (2EØIER)
Burton, Noah (W1NGO)
Cahill, Tom (W9AAT)
Chalfant, Les (KI5GTR)
Chrobot, Zbigniew (SP3UQW)
Cockerton, Marie-louise (2EØYBU)
Cockerton, Steve (MØYRU)
Cook, Jeffrey (KZ4KG)
Corgan, Jared (W7AQB)
Curley, James (KE8EON)
Dabos, Peter (N1CEO)
Demarco, Joe (WA1VEE)
Dewar, Andrew (K4EXA)
Forcada, Mikel (EA5IYL)
Francis, Devon (KC1SDD)
Golubski, Kenneth (W4CCZ)
Goschenhofer, Frank (DL6FBN)
Hawthorne, Timothy (KK7TH)
Heijnens, Paul (DM7TW)
Ho, Linden (K2RTR)
Kazmarek, Skip (K4EAK)
Korona, Marcin (HB9EGA)
La Farina, Alessandro (IZ5CFN)
Linden, Greg (KØVU)
Lunebach, Mike (WG9P)
Main, Robert (bob) (KB4CL)
Mikeln, Jure (S52CQ)
Mis, Piotr (SP9MUF)
Mitchell, Deb (KCØDM)
Musto, Ralph (EI2KU)

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O'Briain, Diarmuid (EI4LF)	Sikachev, Evgenii (NK7Q)	Taylor, Axel (2EØDIG)
Palugniok, Ryszard (MØRPA)	Smith, Graham J (G4NMD)	Taylor, Scott (WE5J)
Pikkaart, Michel (PE1PTS)	Smith, Michael E (KØCCM)	Tosh, Matt (AEØXR)
Pleace, Eric (KO4ZSD)	Stada, Dick (PA3GGX)	Voortwist, Rene (PA3GPX)
Rupert, William (KI5JWV)	Stegers, Bill (PD5BS)	Weygandt, Craig (K7VM)
Severson, Craig (W8CS)	Styles, Nobby (GØVJG)	Zajdel, Tom (AA3TZ)

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

***73, Roland* K7OJL**

CWA Admin

CW Academy

Three 8-week cohort sessions available:

- January - February
- May - June
- September - October

Four training levels:

- Beginners
- Fundamental
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Information and registration: https://cwops.org/cw-academy/

CWops Tests (CWTs)

Rich Ferch, VE3KI

Those of you who have been participating in the CWTs for a while may have noticed a gradual but fairly steady increase in CW speeds. In the earliest CWTs (15 years ago now – how time flies!), the CW speeds as I recall them were in the high 20s, just above the 25 wpm qualification level for membership in CWops. As time went by, typical CW speeds in the CWTs have been increasing steadily, until now operating at 32-34 wpm can leave you feeling that you are going slower than the average.

Based on some comments received lately, this is presenting a bit of a conundrum for new CW Academy graduates and some new members. Having finally made it to the 25 wpm level, they turn to the CWTs for further contest-style practice and find the CW speeds intimidating. On the way up in speed towards 25 wpm, there are the SSTs below 20 wpm and the MSTs in the 20-25 wpm range, but there is increasingly a big jump from there to the speeds that many of the CQing stations in the CWTs are using. Actually, it's not quite that bad; there are still some folks operating at 25-30 wpm in the CWTs, but it can be hard for them to find one another in the crowded bands.

It would be good if we could find a way to make the CWTs a bit more welcoming for newcomers who are not quite ready for QRQ contest QSOs, without taking away from the fun for those who are already there. To make it easier for those just starting out in the CWTs and looking for CW at less than machine gun speeds, one suggestion would be for operators preferring to operate at moderate speeds to congregate in the upper part of the CWT frequency range on each band.

The idea would be that persons wanting to operate at moderate speeds should start out looking for contacts higher up in the band, and also that persons wanting to call CQ on frequencies higher up in the band should make an attempt to moderate their CW speeds to accommodate the non-QRQ folks. This would hopefully make the CWTs a little more welcoming for newbies and give them a place to dip their toes in the water, so to speak. With a bit of practice, as their comfort with higher CW speeds increases they would move lower down the band to blend in with the faster crowd.

I don't want to try to establish a hard and fast definition of either "moderate speeds" or "higher up in the band" (mandated limits don't generally work out very well with this bunch), but something along the lines of 25-30 wpm speeds and frequencies around 45 kHz or so above the bottom of the band might be reasonable to start with.

Worth a try??

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 July, four additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 218.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Jul 2025 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 212 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1**) **KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) K3WW, (5) N5RZ, (6) KC7V, (7) KO4VW, (8) N5TJ, (9) NA8V,** and **(10) K7QA** The separation between first place and tenth place is 564 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Jul 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 387 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1**) **AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) N5RZ, (4) K3WW, (5) KY4GS, (6) OM2VL, (7) NA8V, (8) KC7V, (9) N5TJ** and **(10) K7QA.** The separation between first place and tenth place is 1851 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Jul 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3488 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 6632 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more **DXCC** entities remained at **93** this month.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops **WAS** grew to **270** with the addition of **K5OHY** and **VA4ADM**.

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 Aug 1, 2025, we have 218 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	1702
2	AA3B	1490
3	KY4GS	1483
4	K3WW	1338
5	N5RZ	1307
6	KC7V	1209
7	KO4VW	1199
8	N5TJ	1176
9	NA8V	1172
10	K7QA	1138
11	OM2VL	1134
12	KG9X	1112
13	AA2IL	1104
14	W4CMG	1080
15	N7US	1077
16	WT9U	1036
17	K1VUT	1035
18	F6HKA	1021
19	VE3TM	961
20	DL6KVA	960
21	NJ3K	933
22	K9WX	915
23	K1DJ	898
24	NE2V	895
25	WT3K	887
26	WN7S	863
27	W8FN	860
28	KC3M	853
29	KM4FO	852
30	K1SM	840
31	W9ILY	829
32	K1AJ	826
33	EA6BF	825
34	N4DW	818
35	K6NR	795
36	AC6ZM	794
36	F5SGI	794
37	K3QP	793
38	N5KD	790
39	KW1X	787
40	W0UO	778
41	VK2GR	776
42	N3CKI	762

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	4871
2	KR2Q	4484
3	N5RZ	3805
4	K3WW	3732
5	KY4GS	3555
6	OM2VL	3209
7	NA8V	3189
8	KC7V	3108
9	N5TJ	3080
10	K7QA	3020
11	KO4VW	2909
12	KG9X	2551
13	DL6KVA	2511
14	WT9U	2491
15	K1VUT	2453
16	AA2IL	2309
17	N7US	2295
18	W4CMG	2221
19	F6HKA	2061
20	K9WX	1993
21	VE3TM	1923
22	WN7S	1859
23	NJ3K	1838
24	EA6BF	1827
25	W8FN	1781
26	K1AJ	1778
27	N4DW	1761
28	K1DJ	1725
29	WS7L	1672
30	KM4FO	1632
31	N5XE	1609
32	K6NR	1595
33	W0VX	1588
34	N5KD	1582
35	W9ILY	1580
36	NE2V	1557
37	KW1X	1545
37	KW7Q	1545
38	KC3M	1510
39	WT3K	1503
39	N2UU	1503
40	W0UO	1471
41	EA6EJ	1449

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14909
2	K3WW	11421
3	N5RZ	10628
4	KR2Q	10452
5	N5ZO	10203
6	DL6KVA	9705
7	NA8V	9697
8	W1RM	9476
9	F6HKA	9041
10	VE3KI	8277
11	K3WJV	8228
12	OM2VL	8091
13	K7QA	7923
14	KG9X	7880
15	KC7V	7809
16	N7US	7740
17	W9ILY	7433
18	WT9U	7155
19	K1VUT	7028
20	W0VX	6936
21	N4DW	6895
22	K3JT	6735
23	KY4GS	6704
24	K9WX	6689
25	N5TJ	6532
26	K6NR	6219
27	K1DJ	6160
28	N1DC	6107
29	SM6CUK	6091
30	WT3K	6080
31	N2UU	6048
32	W4WF	6037
33	K4IU	5973
34	WN7S	5885
35	9A1AA	5665
36	AA5JF	5531
37	W8FN	5516
38	G4BUE	5484
39	AC6ZM	5462
40	VE3TM	5426
41	KO4VW	5407
42	W0UO	5385
43	K1SM	5310

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ACA

43	N9FZ	761
44	W1RM	756
45	K3JT	749
46	K3ZA	743
47	N1DC	742
47	W5AL	742
48	WS7L	735
49	K0WA	722
50	KW7Q	721
51	WU6P	720
52	KV8Q	718
53	NA4J	713
54	EA6EJ	702
55	N2UU	698
56	KR3E	689
56	N5XE	689
57	VE3KI	678
58	AF5J	672
59	W0VX	670
60	AA5JF	667
60	N9UNX	667
61	DF7TV	666
61	W4WF	666
62	K4TZ	652
63	N2EIM	648
64	KT5V	647
64	WA9LEY	647
65	SM6CUK	641
66	DL5XL	626
67	VE9KK	622
68	ND9M	607
69	K4IU	604
70	M0RYB	598
70	VE3MV	598
71	K5OHY	592
71	VE3INE	592
72	W9CF	587
73	WE4AUB	580
74	KB8GAE	576
75	NE5A	570
76	K4GM	568
77	KE4CR	540
78	AF4T	536
79	KT4XN	532
80	N5ER	531
81	G4PVM	530
82	DJ5CW	527
83	OZ3SM	521
84	KK0U	519

ACMA

42	K1SM	1445
43	SM6CUK	1441
44	W5AL	1428
45	F5SGI	1417
46	N3CKI	1402
47	K3JT	1395
48	AC6ZM	1391
49	WU6P	1379
50	W1RM	1371
51	NA4J	1367
52	AF5J	1358
53	VE3KI	1331
54	W4WF	1329
55	WA9LEY	1309
56	N1DC	1301
57	VK2GR	1271
58	M0RYB	1267
59	KV8Q	1246
60	VE3MV	1244
61	N9FZ	1224
62	DL5XL	1214
63	AA5JF	1207
64	K3ZA	1206
65	K4IU	1178
66	N9UNX	1165
67	W9CF	1146
68	DJ5CW	1139
69	K3QP	1123
70	DF7TV	1099
71	ND9M	1097
71	W0TG	1097
72	K4TZ	1096
73	K4GM	1095
74	G4PVM	1081
75	OZ3SM	1071
76	WS1L	1027
77	N5ER	1014
78	VE3INE	994
78	WE4AUB	994
79	VE9KK	990
80	AF4T	988
81	KR3E	980
82	G3NKC	960
83	KY0Q	955
84	K0WA	947
85	KT5V	931
86	K1RF	925
87	W3WHK	922
88	WB5N	914

CMA

44	NJ3K	5273
45	N5XE	5091
46	GW0ETF	5078
47	AA2IL	5026
48	NA4J	5019
49	WA9LEY	5000
50	F6JOE	4890
51	WA4JUK	4799
52	OK1RR	4750
53	WS7L	4735
54	K4GM	4722
55	K3QP	4707
56	K1AJ	4655
57	KT5V	4632
58	WN4AFP	4593
59	VE3MV	4530
60	VK2GR	4501
61	DF7TV	4427
62	EA6BF	4425
63	OZ3SM	4420
64	DJ5CW	4406
64	I2WIJ	4406
65	W6AYC	4305
66	KM4FO	4267
67	K0WA	4262
68	N5KD	4209
69	KY0Q	4128
70	W4CMG	4122
71	F5SGI	4120
72	DM6EE	4057
73	W0TG	4044
74	WS1L	4037
75	G4PVM	4002
76	AF5J	4000
77	K0TC	3982
78	NE5A	3962
79	N1EN	3961
80	W3WHK	3945
81	KV8Q	3937
82	WU6P	3918
83	KK0U	3853
84	M0RYB	3841
84	ND9M	3841
85	KW7Q	3812
86	W2CDO	3791
87	AF4T	3699
88	NE2V	3673
89	EA6EJ	3631
90	SM0HEV	3630

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ACA

84	VE3KIU	519
85	K9CPO	515
86	W3WHK	512
87	KY0Q	511
88	NB7O	506
89	K1RF	499
90	WN4AFP	494
91	W0TG	478
91	WB5N	478
92	AC3RA	474
92	W2VM	474
93	G3LDI	473
94	AH7RF	468
95	GW0ETF	465
96	KQ4E	459
97	LY2MM	457
98	K0TC	456
99	K9CW	454
100	WS1L	452

ACMA

89	LY2MM	912
90	K5OHY	905
91	KB8GAE	902
92	NB7O	887
93	K9CW	884
94	KT4XN	857
95	WN4AFP	856
95	G3LDI	856
96	SM0HEV	849
97	VE3KIU	844
98	NE5A	831
99	K9CPO	828
100	KK0U	817
100	DM6EE	817

CMA

91	K4TZ	3583
92	HB9ARF	3564
93	N3CKI	3550
94	KR3E	3461
95	K3ZA	3418
96	4X6GP	3294
97	NN4K	3245
98	K2YR	3242
99	G3LDI	3224
100	KW1X	3134

***73, Bill* WØTG** (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: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Compiled by Dick N9EEE

This month's report includes scores and Soapbox comments from the June and July operating periods, along with year-to-date totals. All scores and comments are sourced from the online database.

If you'd like to participate in the QTX program, please submit your QTX and mQTX QSO counts for the current month, along with any anecdotes for the Soapbox, by the 3rd of the following month via the online submission tool on our webpage: https://cwops.org/qtx-awards/.

For example, August data must be entered by **September 3**. Submissions for the August operating period received after that date will not appear in this column, but they will still be counted toward your year-end totals in the database.

If you are new to the program—welcome! You'll begin your participation with the current month's activity.

Soapbox: June

N2DA: Fewer ragchews this month (June) as vacation travel hindered on air time, but enjoyed the CW sked chats.

N9FZ: All of 3 ragchews in June. One with AA3TZ who later joined and one with WE5J who I'm waiting on the nomination from his CWA advisor and will sponsor.

DL5XL: I was not too active this month, as I travelled a bit. It was great fun to meet so many fellow CW operators at Lake Constance for the "ham radio" fair, but all these "eyeball" ragchews do not qualify as QTX QSOs.

AAØYY: Seems like more solar flares/disturbances in the past month than I can remember in any one year.

N9EEE: Spending a week in the Bahamas as N9EEE/C6A took some time away from ragchewing. You'd think sitting on the beach under a palm tree would be enough time for a ragchew. But my family had other ideas.

VK3QB: A frustrating month. Very ordinary conditions.

K8UDH: I had some very nice, fun CW ragchew QSOs. It's a great way to connect with old, long time friends, and meet an almost unlimited number of potential new CW friends. What better way than with conversational CW.

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MØMZB: This month I started correctly logging QSOs that were held as part of net. My logging program Log4OM has a useful feature that allows records of nets to be easily made. I've had lots of great QTX QSOs, including at least one 1:1 QSO lasting over an hour. I have continued using a bug for the majority of my QSOs and in the last few days have started getting a bit more used to rotating wrist action required.

WS1L: Had a nice chat with Mike, WØVTT about POTA rigs and Chelsea ship's clocks, and with Sam, NR4A/4 as he was camping in his RV in Florida.

DK9HE: Could improve my Mini QTX score now, my QTX remains still a challange.

N8AI: 40 minute chat with AA8SH Clark about his experiences on 630 meters from WV. He gets 120 mile range, very stable propagation.

K7VM: A nice 55 minute QSO with Vern, NJ8L.

W8OV: Longest QTX was with Lee, W4EDE, our 2nd QSO. This one went 41 min.

AJ1DM: This month I had five QTX/mQTX with my current CWA students: N7KV, W2BZ, W1SIM, N8TDV, AND KA1QAP. I've never kept close track, but I think this has to be a record for me. I'm really grateful that my students are willing and able to have nice conversations on the air. VFB!!

NØBM: A couple of nice QSOs this month. One with a ham who has machined a couple of bugs for himself. Neat QRZ page. Does 4 hours straight of Field Day Contacts as A QTX? :>)"

KG5IEE: Many really nice ragchews, but not often I can have a good ragchew with a station running QRP. Dave N9ZXL was running 5 watts. Found out he use to make keys and has a collection of 106 keys.

KF9VV: This has been the first month of reporting after being inspired by the CWops newsletter last month. Keeping statistics is a great motivator for me.

ABØWW: Longest QSO was with Paul, W6GQR, 45 minutes. His age 93. I hope my CW will be as good as his, 22 years from now.

GØFOZ: Just a few QTX this month. I was "bitten by the bug", so to speak, at the tail end of May, so most of my QSOs this month have been using a bug key and I was surprised how many bug users are out there and delighted when (more than once) a QSO partner switched to a bug once we established contact. Always amazed at the range of topics that come up in QSOs this month from 60m antennas to QRM from robot lawn mowers!

KB6NU: My totals were way off this month due to being away from home a good part of the time. Ended the month, however, with a nice QTX with W1GF in Maine, chatting about our Field Day experiences this year.

K9OZ: Between camping trips and the bad band conditions this is my worst month for rag chewing in years.

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DG5CW: Summertime is portable time. And what can be better than having nice chats while sitting on a great spot in the nature? Brian (9J2BO) and Ray (3B8HH) contributed to my score during this months epic DX condx with fantastic longer QSOs. That's what Ham Radio is all about! 73, Tom, DG5CW

DF7TV: Thanks to Thampi, VU2TMP for the QTX QSO. We already had several QSOs before, but this time we both were in the mood to chat. Somehow, I knew that the QSO might be extended when I told him, that I once have been to Mumbai, the former Bombay. नमस्ते / Namaste / Hello to all OPs from India.

Soapbox: July

AJ1DM: Slow month, but still great to rag-chew with my friends.73 de John AJ1DM

K8UDH: I had several really fun ragchew QSOs this month. Some were with long time friends, and they are always a thrill. One was with a ham who shared many of my interests, especially Drake vintage rigs.

N8AI: W6BBD Ben in San Diego grew up on family farm 100yr+ near Youngstown, OH, same young experience as myself near Dayton.

GWØETF: Away much of the month. Ended on a high though with a 25 minute natter with F5IYJ (#1842) who like me was using a 10w K2.

N2DA: Nice sked QSOs with John AJ1DM, Steve WA3JJT, Frank W4TG and Mike WA3PYU. Lots of discussions about the heat wave, gardening, and travel!

N7HCN: Strange band conditions, but a QTX can always be found!

WS1L: Had some nice QTX/mQTX with Al, K4UX on a 111-year old bug, Tom, K5AX discussing the Texas floods, Bruce, W6NDE discussing old Yaesu rigs, Enzo, MØKTZ/G4FOC bug to bug, Chris, N8AI talking about the Brazos Valley ARC Field Day outing, Don, WB6BEE another bug to bug QTX, and Bill, W7GKF sounding very good on his attic antenna.

ABØWW: I will miss Enzo MØKTZ. This month I had a 45-minute QSO with WN7JT, a 33-year-old who has been a ham for only two years, but he sent impeccable CW with his bug at 23 wpm or more. With hams like him, CW will indeed live forever. Also had an interesting QTX with John WB6UBK, who lived in my town (Livermore, California) when he was much younger.

DK9HE: This month, I was able to improve my results considerably. The longest QTX was with Ian IK4EWX on the topic of BUG keys.

KG5IEE: Another fun month of interesting rag chew QSOs. Gratifying to work hams who are working on their rag chew skills to expand from just quick contest or POTA contacts. One ham described POTA contacts as the "fist bump of ham radio". Nothing wrong with that, but a conversation on CW is so rewarding and takes a different set of skills.

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KB6NU: My QTX total is down this month as I've been out doing a lot of POTA. If face to face QSOs counted towards QTX totals, I would have a few more as I had several hams stop by while operating from a park. That was a lot of fun.

N9EEE: It's always fun to have a QTX with a DX station. I'm always curious what they would like to talk about. When I heard the word "sailing" I knew this would not be a mQTX ;)

W8OV: Had one QTX- with KB0LF for 50 mins. Nice rag chew. Try to get some of these during my GB stints, but July has been really poor.

QTX Certificates

Upon reaching the 100, 500, and 1000 QTX levels, members can download and fill out one of the certificates below.

QTX - June 2025

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
VE3WH	40	KR2Q	27	KF9VV	13	F5IYJ	4	W8OV	2
GØFOZ	39	AAØYY	22	K9OZ	12	K7VM	4	DF7TV	1
MØMZB	36	WS1L	20	DK9HE	11	K8UDH	4	NØBM	1
KY4GS	34	KG5IEE	18	DG5CW	7	ABØWW	3	PE2V	1
N7HCN	31	AJ1DM	14	KCØVKN	7	N5LB	3	W6QX	1
N8AI	31	KB6NU	14	N2DA	6	N9EEE	2		

mQTX - June 2025

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	85	DK9HE	20	ABØWW	8	MMØUMH	4	K8UDH	2
AAØYY	34	VE3WH	19	KF9VV	8	N9EEE	4	KB4DE	2
MØMZB	32	KB6NU	16	GØFOZ	7	VK3QB	4	W6QX	2
N8AI	29	KR2Q	15	N7HCN	6	NØBM	3	W8OV	2
WS1L	22	DF7TV	14	PE2V	5	N9FZ	3	AJ1DM	1
DG5CW	20	KG5IEE	14	DL5XL	4	K7VM	2		

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QTX - July 2025

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
N8AI	41	KB6NU	20	N2DA	7	DL5XL	3	W8OV	1
N7HCN	39	KCØVKN	16	ABØWW	6	N9EEE	3		
WS1L	39	KG5IEE	13	AJ1DM	6	DF7TV	2		
KR2Q	23	KY4GS	13	G4KKU	6	N5LB	2		
DK9HE	20	F5IYJ	11	K8UDH	5	GWØETF	1		

mQTX - July 2025z

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	34	F5IYJ	23	KB6NU	11	PE2V	5	K8UDH	1
WS1L	28	N8AI	21	DL5XL	10	AJ1DM	4	N7HCN	1
KR2Q	25	KG5IEE	19	G4KKU	5	N5LB	2	N9EEE	1
DK9HE	24	DF7TV	12	GWØETF	5	ABØWW	1		

QTX - Total 2025

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WA4IAR	381	KR2Q	151	K8UDH	56	AE4GS	14	G4KKU	6
VE3WH	359	AAØYY	149	F5IYJ	53	KF9VV	13	GWØETF	5
WS1L	320	K9OZ	143	N9EEE	34	K7VM	8	VK3QB	5
N8AI	262	MØKTZ	139	N9FZ	24	KE4I	8	DF7TV	4
N7HCN	235	DK9HE	138	DL5XL	22	MØSDB	8	SV2BBK	3
KY4GS	228	KG5IEE	111	ABØWW	20	W6QX	8	W3WHK	3
KCØVKN	185	GØFOZ	91	N5LB	19	K4LFL	7	PG4I	2
KB6NU	173	N2DA	80	NØBM	17	PE2V	7	MMØUMH	1
MØMZB	166	AJ1DM	67	W8OV	15	DG5CW	7		

mQTX - Total 2025

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	432	KB6NU	121	N8AI	29	DK9HE	20	W6QX	5
MØKTZ	252	KG5IEE	117	N9FZ	28	DG5CW	20	G4KKU	5
WS1L	229	GWØETF	41	PE2V	27	W8OV	15	DL5XL	4
GØFOZ	169	DF7TV	40	N9EEE	26	AE4GS	14	W3WHK	2
VE3WH	167	VK3QB	40	SV2BBK	26	MØSDB	14	N5LB	2
WA4IAR	165	ABØWW	36	NØBM	26	K4LFL	9	W6QX	2
KR2Q	153	K8UDH	31	PG4I	23	KF9VV	8		
AAØYY	150	N7HCN	31	F5IYJ	23	KE4I	7		
MØMZB	143	AJ1DM	29	KB4DE	21	K7VM	5		

My Story: New Member Introductions

Compiled by Tim Gennett, K9WX (CWops #1462)

Mike Lunebach, WG9P CWops #3770

I have had other hobbies but radio has always been my passion.

Licensed in 1972 as WN9JHN, I spent a lot of my teenage evenings on the air and no doubt causing major TVI issues for my neighbors. I initially began a career in the tool and die industry but as fortune would have it that industry fell apart, so I joined the USAF to get formal training as a radio technician. One of my monthly duties in the USAF was to break out the KWM-2 and 30L-1, set up an inverted V antenna and establish encrypted communications between my base in Michigan and SAC HQ. It was fun in the summer but oh boy, those northern Michigan winters!

After four years in the Air Force I worked as a tech at a Chicago two-way dealer until I got onboard with United Airlines in 1986. I repaired all the electronic stuff such as radios, radar and navigation stuff on the big jets. If it had wires it was mine to fix. After three years of working midnights, I finally got an opportunity (1989) to transfer into the UAL radio shop and enrolled in college to earn my BSEE.

By 1989 I had upgraded to Amateur Extra class. Between family, work, school and ham radio I wasn't getting much rest. Somehow my wonderful wife Victoria and I mixed 20 bags of concrete and poured the base for my dream tower and 4 element Wilson Yagi. What a gal! I will never forget the moment when I plugged the feedline into my rig (a Ten Tec Corsair) and heard a KH6 calling CQ on 20 meters. The tower and antennas were great, but now our family of six had outgrown that QTH. In 1993 we moved 20 miles NW to our present home in Crystal Lake, Illinois where I operate with a 102' Inverted V.

I have always been a CW operator and used a bug until I enrolled in the CW Academy. I have a small collection of restored vintage boat anchors, but now I am more interested in spending time on the air. After 40 years of designing and building radio systems I have retired. I am having more fun than ever enjoying CW, my kids, grandkids, shotgun sports and of course more time with my ever-patient XYL, Victoria. I recently finished my first book *The Back of the Yards*. A story about growing up in Chicagoland in the shadow of seven siblings.

Completing the CW Academy advanced class has definitely helped me step up my CW skills and I hope to be working at 35 wpm by the new year.

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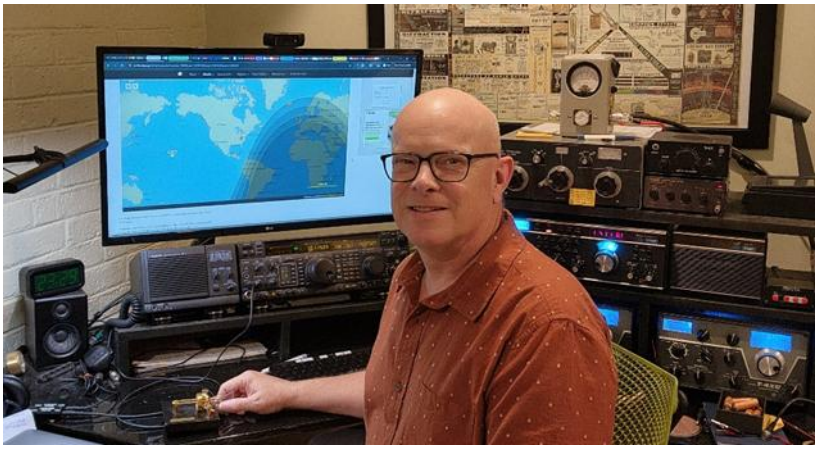
Craig Severson, W8CS CWops #3773



I'm honored to have been invited to join CWops, an organization that I've grown to admire. A big "thank you" to my CWA Advisor Phil NEØS, and my sponsors W8FN, KG6NU, WG9P, K1E-BY, and DF7TV.

My start in ham radio goes back to the late '60s when I showed interest in electronics, and my father entrusted me with his Hallicrafters S-38 receiver to explore the world. Hearing Morse code on the air for the first time was fascinating, and this led to the purchase of the Russ Farnsworth LP records which I used to listen to non-stop. At age 14 I finally felt that I was ready to become a radio amateur, so I summoned my courage and knocked on the door of a local ham, which was answered by Senior Chief Petty Officer Jerry Murphy, K8YUW (SK). He welcomed me into his shack (my eyes wide with awe) and asked a simple question, "So, what makes you think you can be a ham?" Under Jerry's expert tutelage, I had my Novice ticket (WN8ACM) about six months later.

And when my dad saw that I was getting my license, the bug bit him as well, too. We both chased each other up the incentive licensing ranks, hitting Extra Class about two years later after many trips to the Detroit FCC field office. Someone at the FCC had a sense of humor, as they gave us sequential 2x1 callsigns AB8O and AB8P. It wasn't easy running two separate HF stations on the same small suburban lot, but these were the peak days of ham radio with crowded bands and CW was still king.

As with all of us, life gets in the way of our pursuits. During the following years, I would drift in and out of ham radio in the midst of building career and family. My favorite memories during these times were the 75m skeds that I would keep with my father until his passing in 1997. It was around this time that the FCC re-opened the Extra Class vanity callsign program again, and I've held W8CS since then. I've come back into the hobby after a long absence and it's very clear that CW is my first love and is music to my ears. Once I heard about the CWA, it made me motivated to get rid of my bad habits and focus on being the best CW Op that I can be. What a great program, and I honestly miss those evenings with Phil and the guys.

I own my own business and work from home, and this affords me some flexible "operating time." I hope to see you on the bands through either a ragchew or CWT!

Charles F "Fritz" Spetnagel, W6KK CWops #3739

My interest in radio and introduction to ham radio started with broadcast band DXing in the ear-

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ly 1960s. My father bought an old Zenith radio at a swap meet that had short and medium wave bands. I strung up a random wire and would listen to AM broadcast and amateurs at night. I was stationed on Okinawa when I was in the Army and worked part time in the MARS station running phone patches.

When I decided to get my license, my Elmer had a Navy code course on 78 RPM records. I transferred them onto cassette tapes and would listen to them driving to and from work.

I passed the General at the FCC Field office in Long Beach, CA and received WB6SLI. A year later I upgraded to Advanced. In 1977, I was planning a move to Spokane WA. The FCC allowed Amateur Extra Class hams to pick any unassigned call and had just opened up the N block. I passed the Amateur Extra and used my new Washington address and was issued N7QQ. I moved back to southern California in 1979 and kept N7QQ until 1997 when I changed to W6KK.

The DXpedition bug bit me in 1992 when a ham friend started planning a trip to Clipperton Island (FOØx). I was on the FOØCI team in March 1992. After that I went on trips on a regular basis for the next 20 years. I was on 6 DXpeditions and numerous contest trips in the Pacific and Caribbean

I worked for the local power utility for 49 years in the telecommunications department holding a number of craft, supervisory and management positions. I retired in 2017 as the operations manager. A year later I was "invited" back as a consultant and asked to take on the roll as project manager for a high visibility project that was pitched to me as only lasting 18 months. It lasted over 3 years; I fully retired in 2023.

Jared Corgan, W7AQB CWOps #3774.

My earliest memories of ham radio are of K7ZX's antenna atop his house in Costa Rica when I would ride my bike over to hang out with his son.

When I was eleven or twelve, my dad got a ham radio from another departing missionary who was a ham. I remember being in awe listening to static. My dad didn't catch the ham bug and the radio didn't stick around long.

In 2013, I started to through-hike the Ozark trail in Missouri.

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A buddy had recently got his license and was pushing me to do it too. I looked for a purpose but came up short thinking I might use a Baofeng to talk over repeaters when I was out on the trail. Once again, ham radio had grazed me but not taken hold.

I finally got my license in 2022 after an encounter with a radio at work re-sparked my interest. In February 2023, I was involved in a pretty bad car accident which limited my mobility quite a bit (still improving). I had just returned the FT-450D I had borrowed from my local club and ordered an FT-890 which had not arrived before the accident. It ended up at my in-law's house during my two-month stay in the hospital.

Kits, learning CW, thinking about antennas, and getting on the air has kept me active, engaged, and doing things. I feel very lucky to have ham radio and hams to connect with.

Solid Copy is a monthly newsletter focused on the amateur radio world of Morse code (CW) and is written by members of The CW Operators Club (CWops) providing news and information, technical articles, member activities, contesting, operating events, awards, and club announcements.

Articles of interest by CWops members may be submitted to SolidCopy@cwops.org at any time and will be considered for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Please reference our website for guidelines for submitting articles. Any other inquiries regarding *Solid Copy* may be made to SolidCopy@cwops.org.