

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter
September 2025 — Issue 188



CWops members from Thailand (incl KO8SCA and JN1THL) enjoying the Tokyo Hamfest.

President's Message

The rationale behind CWops and its existence is to support and represent committed and enthusiastic CW operators. We impose very few restrictions and this includes how we send our CW.



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

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Members are free to choose from straight keys to paddles to cooties and computer keyboards favoured by testers, and everything in between and off to the side. That even includes using 2 bare wires on a SOTA summit which I recall reading about in *Solid Copy* some years back. Reading about novel ways of sending is always entertaining and descriptions from history such as the 'Telegraph Tuning Fork' in last month's edition also add to the interest.

Each type of key has its own learning curve, some steeper than others. I've been using paddles for years now, it's my comfort zone. Soon after passing the licence Morse test with the examiner-supplied straight key, I bought a Bencher BY-1 and mastered iambic keying – well, 'kinda mastered'..HI! Then I migrated (with difficulty) to single paddles when I thought my fingers were becoming arthritic. Occasionally I'd get my inherited straight key off the shelf but could never get back into any sort of comfortable sending. It was a nice looking brass/slate key but the action was heavy and clunky and sounded like someone hammering on the desk with a hammer. So it just lived on the shelf. Then last July on our trip around Ireland we visited Valentia Island in Dingle Bay on the west coast and drove out to its impressive lighthouse. I've always been fascinated by lighthouses, especially ones whose name features in the BBC Shipping Forecast (which noble institution incidentally celebrated its 100th year at the time of our visit)! The last light-keeper and his family left in 1947 when the light was automated but the lighthouse and extensive living quarters have been tastefully preserved as a museum. In one room was a re-creation of the communications set up including a Morse key which had been linked to a code reader for the amusement of visitors. The key was some sort of marine straight key with the lever protruding from a grey metal box, and being alone for some time I could have a play without feeling self-conscious. It struck me how light and responsive this ancient Morse key felt in contrast to my brass pounder at home: I was actually enjoying persuading the code reader to understand my sending! It also reminded me of the back to basics essence of sending raw Morse code with a hand key without help from a computer or logic gates to create perfectly formed strings of dits and dahs. Being responsible for forming the code from the bottom up certainly does feel very different and I've always admired the ability of being able to send this way skilfully.

By the time I'd got home I had decided I would make an effort to resurrect my hand keying. I would use the same tactic I employed when I migrated from iambic to single paddle (which took me two attempts!) and buy myself a quality key to hopefully improve my chances of success. The attendant price tag would also persuade me to persevere and not to give up too readily! With few serious CW ops around here and not being the hamfest type I don't get much chance to see or try different keys so I stuck with the familiar and checked out Begali and the reviews and ended up with a Begali Blade. It's large and heavy (at 1.85Kg/4.1lbs) but in contrast to my old pounder feels light and responsive in use with a precise keying action. I'm still getting used to the forgotten technique and despite the screw-ups and QRS I'm having plenty of contacts with forgiving partners. Most importantly I'm enjoying using this beautiful key so my straight key revival, although very much a work in progress, is looking promising.

Speaking of lighthouses, I was the CW 'arm' of GB2TD in the Lighthouses on the Air event over the weekend of August 16/17 from 'Trwyn Du' on the north-eastern tip of the Isle of Anglesey. I set up my 'grab and go' K3 on 30m to avoid interference with the main station and getting tangled up with the Russian Districts Contest. I didn't get round to installing the CWops member list in the 'extra information' add-on which tells me when I'm working a fellow member, but I did rec-

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ognise a few familiar calls. If you didn't see the post on the CWops io group about this event (#70659) check your logs to see if you worked either myself at GB2TD or Raoul ZS1C at ZR3VDK. The GB2TD logs are also on LoTW now.

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

sc

Editor's Note: Keyed Up

They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery—so I'll take that as permission, since I'm the one borrowing a brilliant idea.

Each month, I eagerly anticipate the NAQCC (North American QRP CW Club) newsletter for two standout features: the Sprint competition results and the monthly poll. I tend to do well in the Sprint competition and enjoy seeing the results and soapbox comments from fellow competitors. Still, it's the monthly poll I can't resist. Each month's question is relevant to CW QRPers whose answers offer insights that keep me attuned with the trends of our unique tribe. They're usually softball questions that won't keep you up at night, but they often spark thoughtful reflection.

So, with a nod to NAQCC I'm introducing a new feature in this month's issue of *Solid Copy*: **Keyed Up**—a monthly poll of CWops members who are curious about the habits and quirks of their fellow operators. Similarly, you'll find interesting or entertaining questions that are relevant to CWops members and answers that may surprise or intrigue you. Check it out on page 18.

Also, I feel we need some humor to provide some balance to the news, data, and stories that constitute this newsletter. Last month, I gave you fair warning that I might have to resort to stick figures and my droll sense of humor if a cartoonist didn't step up. Nobody did, so you've got me and my stick figure humor. Check it out on page 18.

Also, making his debut as our new QTX columnist, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, dives into "Tips for Ragchewing." His column got me wondering about the origins of the term itself. According to Microsoft Copilot (my new favorite AI companion), "chew the rag" dates back to the Middle Ages—where "chew" was slang for talk, and "rag" may have referred to the tongue or even gossip.

Thanks, Dan. I can already tell you're going to be the source of many delightful rabbit holes I'll be tumbling down.

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 Members have become Silent Keys.

Condolence cards have been sent on behalf of CWops



**Gerard van Antwerpen,
ZL2GVA #3028
on 19th November**



**Steven S Reichlyn,
AA4V #1867
on 23rd August 2025**

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#), and thank you for the contributions.

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 remember copy it to my [email](#) address. Thank you!

Congratulations to **Laura, MM7BFL #3681** who has been appointed to the role of [CW Champion](#) by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Laura will head up the RSGB's [Morse](#)-related activities and become an advocate for the use of CW. In her role Laura will also help the Society to take CW to new audiences, with an emphasis on learning and development to further the skills of its members.

Laura is already hard at work assembling an enthusiastic team of volunteers (including several CWops members) to assist her in this role.

Chris, VK3QB, VK9NT & VK1CWO #2949 Chris will be activating Norfolk Island along with Luke VK3HJ and Alan VK6CQ. Both Luke and Chris operate CW only (more or less) with Alan looking after FT8.

We'll be on all bands from 40 metres through 6 metres. Please listen out for us and say G'day. Also, Chris will be active in the CWTs both weeks they are on the island - so please listen out for VK9NT (op: VK3QB).

"I look forward to having a chat with as many CW Ops members as possible. If Dick permits me to write (yet) another short story



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on this trip to Norfolk Island, I'll have it ready for the October edition." (N9EEE: yes, and please include pix of "roughing it" on your DXpedition. By the way, I love these colorful logos of recent DXpeditions).

More info on QRZ.com

Additionally, and picking up on the innovative idea from the UK, I've created a sub-group for Oceania CWops members. This will mostly be VK and ZL, but we also have 3D and YB members. If you're a member in this region, please join the [group](#) for the exchange of local news and events.

Group Email Addresses

Post: cwops-oc@groups.io

Subscribe: cwops-oc+subscribe@groups.io

Unsubscribe: cwops-oc+unsubscribe@groups.io

Group Owner: cwops-oc+owner@groups.io

Help: cwops-oc+help@groups.io

Matt, N5INT #3572 I have been awarded N5INT (formerly KI5PGL). Now I'm going to undertake the unenviable task of trying to get a refund from the FCC for all my attempts at a 1X2!

Enzo, MØKTZ #3206 I received last week a parcel containing a fantastic "CW FOREVER" plaque from the Club. Thank you so much for that. It is really beautiful, and it was most unexpected. My gratitude to the Committee and the club at large.



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Dick, N9EEE #3113 A number of us midwestern CWops members gathered at the W9DXCC Convention in Naperville, IL where nearly two hundred DXers gathered to hear from DXpedition leaders, a space physicist, and other members sharing operating tips. N9EP and W9XA emceed. K9CT handled prizes. KD9LSV and K9WX were presenters. And Craig, K9CT, was the keynote speaker giving a passionate account of his **DXpeditioner's Journey, a look back on 13 DXpeditions**.



Pictured above, left to right:

Mike (WB8BZK), John (K9MM), Tyler (N4TY), Glenn (KE4KY), Buddy KC4WQ, David (ND4Y), Conner (KD9LSV), Mike (W9MR), Anne (KC9YL), Anthony (AB9YC), Dick (N9EEE), Ed (N9EP), John (W9ILY), Lee (WA9LEY), Craig, (K9CT), Tim (K9WX), Mike (K9NW), Rudy (NF9V), Joel (N9LQ)

Dick, N9EEE #3113 Just had to give a shout out to Bill, AJ8B for the nice interview of Dan, KB6NU our new QTX columnist on Bill's **DX Mentor** podcast and companion YouTube video. Bill is CWops #1567 so it's all in the family. Check it out: https://youtu.be/mzq-caGpp0Q?si=n9UO30M6_WO3rPS-



Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

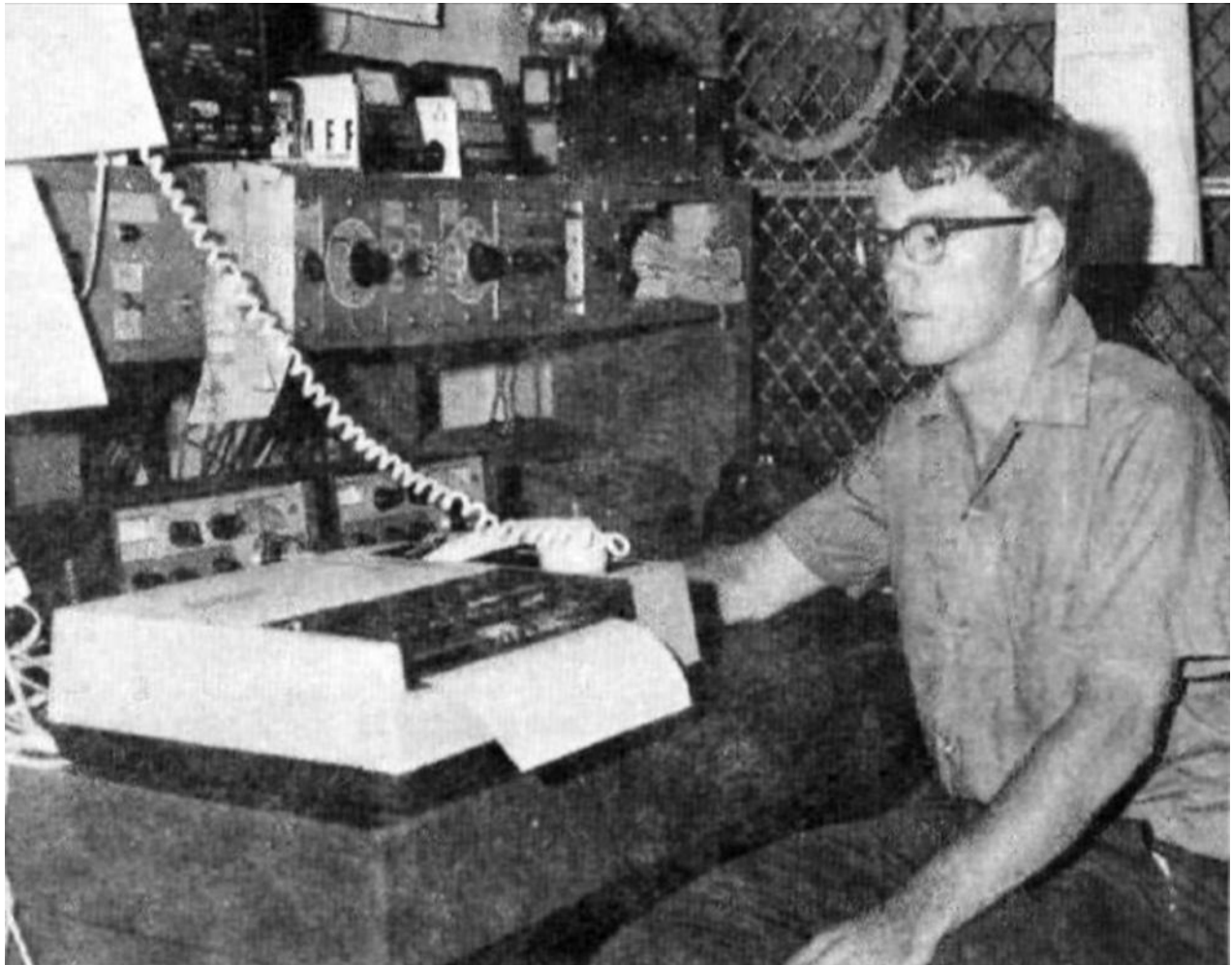
73, Duncan G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

K9MA, Scott Ellington, CWops #1385



"K9MA operating at UW-Madison club station W9YT in 1971. We had an experimental license to use a telecopier to send weather satellite images to South America."

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)

2025 Tokyo Ham Fair

[Ken Tanuma](#), JN1THL (CWops #161)

CWops exhibited at Tokyo Ham Fair 2025 .

August 23 and, August 24, 2025

Despite the 100-degree heat, 42,000 people attended.

At the CWops booth, we encouraged members to join, recruited participants for CWT and CW Open, and promoted DXpedition in which CWops members participated.

The following people traveled all the way to visit our booth:

KO8SCA Adrian #2408, E21EIC Champ #264, E20NKB Jay Cie, E25KAE Bun #3284, HA7RY Tomi, HA5RG Gabi, DK7PE Rudi #2864, K9KJ T.J. #3228.

On Sunday, August 24, we held a talk show on the satellite stage to introduce CWops and discuss large-scale DXpeditions CWops members were involved.

N5J Jarvis team received the "DXpedition of the Year" award, and KO8SCA presented the award plaques to the operators involved:

HA7RY (CW and low-band expert), E21EIC (leading Asian DXer), JH8JWF (Asian pilot), JK1KSB (well-known in CQ JA magazine), JE1CKA (CW expert, consistently ranked highly in contests, N1MM + accurate commentary), and JN1THL.

CWops member: N5J on-site Ops: N1DG Don, KO8SCA Adrian.

N5J Remote Ops: AA1V, AA7A CE3CT, CT1BOH, CT1ILT DJ4MX, DL6KVA, E21EIC E70T JN1THL K1IR K5GO K6MM K6TD K6UFO KL2A KL7SB KY7M N6MJ N7NR ND2T NP4Z PY5EG VE5MX W1RM W1VE W2GD WD6T ZL3CW.

The highlight of the talk show was the appearance of the well-known KO8SCA, HA7RY, and E21EIC. KO8SCA, Adrian, participated in SV1GA/A Mt. Atos, N5J Jarvis, W8S, Swains, 3Y0J Bouvet, and others, and plans to return to 3Y0K Bouvet in 2026.

E21EIC Champ participated with JH1AJT Zoro Miyazawa. A5A, E31A Eritoria, which also featured KO8SCA, and XZ1J, XZ1A, and XU1A.

Remote OPs included N5J K8R W4IZT 3D2Y and others.

The fun time at the "CWops and DXpedition" talk show flew by, but we ended with a promise to meet again next year in 2026.

CWops will also be exhibiting at the Hokkaido Ham Fair (Sapporo) on September 20 and 21.

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People from various fields came.



A1 Club booth

JE1TRV Atsu is the founder of A1Club and CWops#141.

JF1FXF is Ambassador of CWops #2898

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The CWops members in Thailand are very active.



Talk Show "CWops and DXpedition"

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On site ops of N5J Jarvis Adrian and Tomi.



JA8RUZ #3632 Many DXpeditions KP1,XZ 5T and more.
DK3PE made interesting video [Tokyo HAM Fair 2025 - Impressions - YouTube](#)



JF3KNW #394 Best CW OP.
JI1TYA was setting up CWops booth.



JE1PEN and WC2A Two shacks San Metro CA and Tokyo.

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K9KJ #3228 His Phased EFHW antenna is huge!! Dr. Yoshiko is my lifesaver. She looks young but is a genius doctor. Last December, I fell seriously ill and she helped me. When I introduced her to the Ham Fair, she showed great interest and expressed a desire to obtain a ham radio license. Some day she will get CWops #????



JH1GNU #731 Antenna specialist.

From Tubes to Text Channels: How Discord Is Rewiring Ham Radio Culture

[Joe Fitter](#), K9UR (CWops #2102)

Once upon a time, in a world powered by vacuum tubes and caffeine-fueled late-night QSOs, amateur radio operators communicated with the precision of Morse code and the patience of saints. They sent emails like they were dispatching carrier pigeons or cards via the buro—slow, noble, and like that prized QSL card, prone to getting lost. But for the past 2 years, a new frequency has opened up in the digital ether: Discord. And it's changing the way CWops operators have been connecting, collaborating, joking, encouraging, and occasionally sharing an odd cat or dog meme.

Email: The QTC of Modern Communication but s-l-o-w

Let's face it—email is the CW traffic of the internet. It's deliberate, formal, and about as real-time as a glacier. You send a message to the CWops email reflector, wait 24 hours, and receive a reply that says, "Interesting point." Meanwhile, your soldering iron has cooled, your dog has chewed through your coax, and you've forgotten what you were even asking.

Discord, on the other hand, is like a contest weekend with perfect propagation. You type, they reply. Instantly. Globally. You can share photos of your shack, audio clips of your latest QSO, or hop into a voice channel and set up a CW sked—globally.

The Youth Invasion - with Morse Keys

Discord is where the next generation of hams is already hanging out. These are the operators who learned CW on their phones, build SDRs with Raspberry Pis, and think a Heath-kit is a retro fashion brand. They're fast, tech-savvy, and fluent in both Morse and memes. They don't wait for the monthly newsletter—they want answers now, and Discord delivers.

Don't be Stuck in the Static

Now, we love our seasoned operators. They've forgotten more about RF than most of us will ever know. But some still think "logging in" means opening their spiral-bound QSO notebook. The idea of "joining a Discord server" sounds suspiciously like joining a cult. And don't even mention usernames. ("Why do I need a handle? I already have a call sign!")

But here's the twist: the CWops Discord channel isn't just for members. That's right—it's open to *aspiring* CW operators too. Unlike the email list, which is reserved for official members and guarded like the last roll of solder in a supply chain crisis, the Discord channel is inclusive, welcoming, and designed to bring in fresh blood—er, fresh signals. What a cool chance to mentor newer operators before croaking out.

And yes, some folks are worried about security. "Is Discord safe?" they ask, clutching their Faraday cages and muttering about Chinese satellites. Let's be clear. Discord is not going to hack your rig, steal your logbook, or reroute your coax to the Kremlin. It's used by millions—including soft-

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ware developers, educators, and other ham groups—and it's about as dangerous as a Yaesu manual written in Klingon.

A Place for Growth, Not Just Glory

The Discord server is a space where newcomers can ask questions, get advice, and learn from experienced ops. While everyone is CW-centric, it's a place for some real-time mentorship, encouragement, and feedback. Whether you're just making your first CWT "CQ" or you're prepping for your Advanced CW Academy class, or an old hand at this, you'll find support, camaraderie, and maybe even a few dad jokes.

Come Join the Party. So, to all the hesitant hams out there, we get it. Change is hard. But Discord isn't replacing ham radio—it's enhancing it. It's the virtual coffee shop where operators from around the world gather to swap stories, troubleshoot gear, and share the joy of the hobby in real time.

The CWops Discord channel is buzzing with activity, and we'd love to hear your signal loud and clear. Whether you're a seasoned contester or just starting your journey into the world of dits and dahs, there's a spot for you.

Just think of it as a new band opening up!

What Is Discord?

Discord is a free communication platform that lets people chat via text, voice, and video in organized spaces called servers. Think of a server like a virtual clubhouse, and each channel inside it is a room dedicated to a specific topic—like CW decoding tips, antenna builds, or just sharing photos of your cat sleeping on your rig.

Originally built for gamers, Discord has evolved into a hub for all kinds of communities—including amateur radio operators who want to talk shop without waiting for someone to reply to an email three days later.

How to Get Discord

Getting Discord is easier than programming your HT (and way less likely to involve holding down three buttons while standing on one foot). Here's how:

- **Desktop/Laptop:** Go to discord.com/download and download the app for Windows, macOS, or Linux.
- **Mobile Devices:**
 - For iPhone/iPad, grab it from the App Store
 - For Android phones/tablets, get it from the Google Play Store
- **Web Browser:** Don't want to install anything? You can use Discord directly in your browser at discord.com

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Gaming Consoles: Discord is also available on Xbox and PlayStation 5, in case you want to rag-chew while fragging.

For the Skeptical Ham

If you're worried Discord might be some kind of digital spy balloon—relax. It's used by millions of people daily, including software engineers, educators, and yes, even other ham radio clubs. It's secure, customizable, and doesn't require you to sacrifice your privacy or your soul. You don't need to share your QTH or your blood type—just pick a username (your call sign works great!) and join the fun.

If you're joining the CWops Discord channel, keep in mind:

- this link expires: <https://discord.gg/dSgvDzSy>
- it's open to aspiring CW operators, not just members
- a join link is occasionally posted on the CW Ops email reflector

The link expires, so if it's stale, just ask one of the cool kids (or any friendly member) for a fresh invite.

So go ahead—download the app, join the server, and discover a whole new band of communication. No static, no waiting, just real-time camaraderie.

And yes, you *can* still use your straight key while chatting. We won't judge.

See you on the server. 73.

sc

Telford Hamfest

[Peter Estibeiro](#), GMØEUL, (CWops #1899)

The Telford Hamfest is one of the major UK radio rallies and was held on 31st August at Harper Adams University just outside Telford, UK.

I had a stall in the trade exhibition selling my UMPP-CW miniature Morse keys and thought I could easily also represent CWops and give us a bit of a presence at a major show. I cleared it with Stew GWØETF and he sent me the club banner and a copy of the information sheet from Jim N3JT. I printed the sheet at A3 and stuck it to the table, also attaching a QR code so people could scan straight through to the website for more information about the club and CWA.

I met Graham, G4NMD (#3747), for the first time in person although I knew him originally from CWA. Graham has set up a local club for electronic makers to encourage construction and operation of home made equipment. He's planning a project to make a CW radio combined with a CW boot camp and getting the radio on the air for a QSO. The Hamfest hosts the annual QRP club convention with a build-a-thon and social supper on Saturday. Fellow CWops member Enzo,

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MØKTZ #3206 was involved in setting up and operating the GQRP club station, G5LOW, from the green outside the exhibition hall. I know they made a good number of contacts, including several with Enzo's home-made and rickety-looking wooden bug! It looked pretty dodgy but worked extremely well and attracted a lot of interest. John, MØCDL (#2965), was also there helping on the Kanga stall selling their excellent range of kits, many of which are designed to support learning and practicing CW. I rounded out the CWops contingent, Peter GMØEUL (1899), or at least those who made themselves known. Thanks to Enzo MØKTZ for the pictures of the G5LOW outdoor shack and the wooden bug.



On the stall, I saw a lot of interest in CW. Several people stopped by to play with the keys on display and I sold enough to make a profit on the day. There was plenty of interest in CWops, too. Some common themes emerged: there were those who were teaching themselves CW and I pointed them towards CWA as a way of really accelerating progress in a supportive group environment. Some felt they wanted to learn CW but weren't sure how to go about it, again they were pointed towards CWA.

Several had passed the old 12 wpm Morse test in the 80s and early 90s, when it was a requirement here for a class A license. They then hadn't used it for the next 30 or more years and wanted to get back into it. I had been in that category myself, having been off the air from about 1990 to 2016, so I could tell them about my own experience of CWA and point them towards it as an excellent way of renewing and improving the old skills.



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If you have a chance to represent CWops at a rally you should take it. A lot of people are interested and will stop and chat. I had the advantage of keys on display, so it does help to have something to grab attention. You meet some fascinating people and learn some interesting stuff, particularly from the ex-professional ops. I had a couple of long chats with a coastguard and a former submariner. Great blokes, wonderful stories....



A good day out, plenty of interest in CW out there and I raised awareness of CWops, hopefully some will convert into interest in the CW Academy.

We had a good site, on the corner of a big island with plenty of foot traffic and right next to the GQRP club.

A SPECIAL PROGRAM THIS FALL: THE DX MARATHON SPRINT

Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W (CWops #3525)

The DX Marathon continues to grow, and Cycle 25 has brought even more excitement to DXing. Participation has nearly doubled in the past few years, and we would like to see it grow even further. This year, we are introducing something special—the DX Marathon Sprint, a 10-day mini-Marathon running October 18–27, 2025. Any DX worked during the Sprint counts toward both the Sprint and your full-year DX Marathon score.

No sign up will be required for the Sprint as is the case for the full year DX Marathon. Submissions will be made through our streamlined submission system. All that is required is to:

1. Generate an ADIF file.
2. Upload it directly at entry.dxmarathon.com.

Our program remains simple:

- **No fees**
- **No confirmations required**
- **Participation options:** single mode, single band. (Visit <https://dxmarathon.com/rules/2025-sprint/>)

Every participant will receive a certificate—acknowledging your score, your placement, and how you compare against peers in at least three categories.

DX Marathon Sprint Summary:

- **Modes:** All modes or individual (CW, SSB, Digital)
- **Categories:** Unlimited, Limited, Formula, QRP (<https://dxmarathon.com/rules/>)
- **Spotting:** Allowed
- **Exchange:** Suitable to QSO's claimed, (e.g. CW: 599; SSB: 59 Digital: -05 -06)
- **Scoring:** 1 point per DXCC entity and 1 point per CQ Zone (160–6m)
- **Reporting:** Upload ADIF at entry.dxmarathon.com
- **Dates:** October 18 (00:00Z) – October 27 (23:59Z)

Log Deadline: November 2, 2025 (23:59Z)

With the CQ WW SSB contest (Oct 25–26) falling inside the Sprint, the bands will be full of DX. It is the perfect opportunity to have some fun, get reacquainted, and fuel your year long DX Marathon score.

We look forward to your participation! Any questions, please direct them to my published email wc3w@dxmarathon.com.



Keyed Up

for September 2025

“What percentage of your operating time on the HF bands is spent on CW?”

Take the poll. Leave a comment. Check results in next month's *Solid Copy*: <https://cwops.org/keyed-up/>

What percent of your operating time on the HF bands is spent on CW?

- ☐ 100%
- ☐ 75 to 99%
- ☐ 50 to 74%
- ☐ 25 to 49%
- ☐ under 25%

Vote

View

pollcode.com [free polls](#)

— **SC** —

Hamming It Up



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>
3781	K4FR	Scott	3784	W1SIM*	Larry	3787	DG9RAB*	Ulrich
3782	WE5J*	Scott	3785	N7OR*	Bob			
3783	K1NW*	Brian	3786	S50A	Tine			

* Lifetime member

As of September 5, 2025:

Need Sponsors: IT9GSF, MØDXR, KQ2M, DJ1TF/JJ1QPB

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

GW2CWO	YO2ARM DF6IA	PA0RBC DK1QG	PG7MYA	SM6HCI	EI5KJ	G4EHT	DM4JA
JG1BGT	JO1DGE(2)	J12MED	JK1QYL	JG7AJE	JM4AOA		
JG1UQD	BG2TFW	JS2OVO	JJ0SFV(2)	JK1WCW			
JJ1FXF	YJ8CW JJ0XEQ(2) VK3KEV	VK5GG JP2RKL JS2KZM	JL1STV AI5IN	JH0ONE JM1MKH	KE7LOY(2) JE2OUK	JJ0SFV JQ3FRX(2)	JS2OVO JI0DRC/1
JK1QYL	JL1STV JA4IJJ(2) JG1BGT JK1WCW	JM1MKH(5) JJ0XEQ JE2OUK(2)	JS2OVO JP1CIV JF7NWP	J16MDA(2) JK1PWT JQ3DIM	JA1EFS(3) JJ0SFV JQ3FRX(2)	JE1FMZ JL2SQK(2) JJ0XUX	JS2OVO/7 JQ3KOH JQ3FRX
JM4AOA	JA1EFS JQ3FRX(2)	JA4IJJ JS2OVO	JA4MRL	JA6BZH	JH2URW	JJ0SFV	JK1WCW
JO1DGE	7J1ATG/2 JG1BGT(2) JS2KNN	JA1EFS(2) JJ0SFV(4) JS2KZM	JA7KED JJ1QPB	JA7TJ JJ5TAW	JE1FMZ JL1GXB	JF7NWP(2) JP2RKL	J16MDA JR3RHI
K7NJ	KE6QR/6 K6ZGN N3WT	AG5XU WA3UKC W4NHO	VE4QP KM7QK W8HOM	KW4AB NC3S K7TRT	N6OVP K3YQY W7RH	W8FJ K0CBY AG4T	KA2KGP NU7J N6ERP
K8UDH	NU0I (2)	W8HOM					
KV8Q	KB8ZPZ						
M0WDD	DK4AN G4HZJ MM0UMH	F4IAW G4MLM MW0BGL	G0UBE M0IYP ON5CFT	G3MCK M0KBJ PA3AM	G3PQT M0TJU	G3SQU M7XYW	G4DUC MM0CIN
W5DT	N3EMZ	KA1BBC	KY3P	KK0I			
W8OV	N9FGC JQ3FRX JI1CJJ	VE3QAM JE2HSH	WB2FUV JO1DGE	K4IBZ JJ0SFV	W5AK7J1ATG JL1STV	JK6UPC JH5EZJ	JL1MUT JR2BOE
7L2VPL	JL1STV	JM1MKH	HK1MW	JE2OUK	JA4IJJ		

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7N2XZB HL2AVK JQ3FRX(3) JG7AJE JA4IJJ(3) JI6MDA JJ0XEQ JH8ECQ
 AI5IN JJ0SFV JI1BXM 7N1OEX JE2OUK 7N2XYS JL2SQK

Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local												
October - April: 40m & 80m May - September: 40m & 20m												
Frequencies: 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539, 14.035 - 14.039 MHz JA - 7.028 +/-												
UTC+10	UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	New York	Chicago UTC-5	Denver UTC-6	Los Angeles	Hawaii UTC-10
MON												
VK1CWO	JØ1DGE							W2XS				
	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



Here are the latest CW Academy enrollments numbers. Per usual our summer semester is generally the lowest numbers and winter the highest. As you can see the fall numbers from this year and last have been steady. Currently we have almost 100 signed up for the 2026 Jan/Feb semester. So, we are on track for another great winter class.

Category	2025 May/June	2025 Jan/Feb	2025 Sept/Oct
Total Enrolled	427	601	519
Beg Enrolled	183	239	248
Fun Enrolled	95	131	114
Adv Enrolled	281	393	388
Total Assigned	281	393	388
Beg Assigned	98	130	169
Fun Assigned	57	91	93
Int Assigned	73	93	80
Adv Assigned	53	79	46

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Category	2024 Sept/Oct	2025 Sept/Oct
Total Enrolled	563	519
Beg Enrolled	253	248
Fun Enrolled	114	114
Int Enrolled	124	103
Adv Enrolled	72	54
Total Verified	466	464
Beg Verified	195	210
Fun Verified	101	110
Int Verified	107	93
Adv Verified	63	51
Total Assigned	393	388
Beg Assigned	150	169
Fun Assigned	88	93
Int Assigned	89	80
Adv Assigned	56	46

Category	2024 Sept/Oct	2025 Sept/Oct
Total Advisors	51	50
Beg Advisors	25	29
Fun Advisors	13	10
Int Advisors	7	7
Adv Advisors	6	4
Total Classes	68	61
Beg Classes	30	30
Fun Classes	17	13
Int Classes	13	12
Adv Classes	8	6

We really appreciate all the time, commitment and developed resources the advisors put in to keep these classes going. As our membership grows and the nets, SOTA/POTA activity and CWT keeps increasing...is certainly a testimony to the effectiveness of our program. Thanks again.

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, Bob WR7Q #1423

CWA Admin

CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

Well, the 300 QSO barrier for CWTs has been breached! ND3T (aka LZ5ND, operating the K1LZ super-station in Maine remotely) posted a score of 300 QSOs (with 244 mults, for a total score of 73,200 points) in the 1900Z CWT on August 6. My software is programmed to alert me when a score of 300 or more QSOs is posted, and in the past this has always been because someone posted a score in the wrong contest, but this time it was actually a CWT posting.

Other statistics to report: In the first 140 CWTs in 2025, there have been over 34,000 scores posted. The median score (50th percentile) is 46 QSOs, while the arithmetic average score is 58.1 QSOs. The average attendance in the four sessions is 327 at 1300Z, 345 at 1900Z, 217 at 0300Z, and 84 at 0700Z.

In the 1300Z session, 72% of scores are from North American stations, 26% from European stations, and just over 1% from stations in Asia. At 1900Z, these change to 77% from North America and 22% from Europe. The 0300Z is usually almost entirely North American (92%), with 6% from Europe and 1% from Oceania. At 0700Z, Europe leads the way at 70%, with 24% from North American night-owls, 5% from Oceania and 1% from Asia.

With 140 CWTs on the books, it is possible for some operators to have achieved the Gold medal level already, and 14 members have already done so: eight from North America, led by WF4I with a perfect 140 total, two from Europe (G3LDI and G4DYC), three from Oceania (AH6KO, VK2GR and VK3OU) and one from Asia (JN1THL). Many more of us will surpass the Gold, Silver and Bronze thresholds during the coming months.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager

CW Open

Logs are due by September 24, 2025

[Rules](#)

[Log submissions](#)



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland](#), WØTG



Monthly Update

During August, seven additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 225.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Aug 2025 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B and KY4GS** by 232 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B and KY4GS tie, (3) K3WW, (4) N5RZ, (5) KC7V, (6) KO4VW, (7) OM2VL (8) N5TJ and NA8V tie, (9) KG9X and (10) K7QA** The separation between first place and tenth place is 564 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Aug 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 323 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 1832 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Aug 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3479 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 6643 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more **DXCC** entities grew to **95** this month with the addition of **EA1X** and **SQ9S**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops **WAS** grew to **273** this month with the addition of **KF9LI, N1CFO** and **WA5PFJ**.

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 Sep 1, 2025, we have 225 active participants. If you have not yet submitted any logs for 2025, please do so soon, and we can include your score among the participants.

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

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

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

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

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

CWops Member Awards Program Overview

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

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

Please Join Us!

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

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

More Information

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

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

ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1738
2	AA3B	1506
2	KY4GS	1506
3	K3WW	1360
4	N5RZ	1341
5	KC7V	1226
6	KO4VW	1220
7	OM2VL	1196
8	N5TJ	1191
8	NA8V	1191
9	KG9X	1177
10	K7QA	1174
11	N7US	1125
12	AA2IL	1124
13	W4CMG	1104
14	F6HKA	1076
15	K1VUT	1053
16	WT9U	1050
17	EA1X	1009
18	VE3TM	1003
19	DL6KVA	982
20	NJ3K	956
21	K1DJ	955
22	K9WX	933
23	WT3K	911
24	NE2V	895
25	KC3M	894
26	K1AJ	885
27	WN7S	884
28	KM4FO	881
29	W8FN	860
30	K1SM	857
31	K3JT	846
32	N5KD	845
33	EA6BF	839
34	K6NR	837
35	W9ILY	829
36	VK2GR	819
37	N4DW	818
37	W1RM	818
38	F5SGI	815
39	K3QP	805
40	W0UO	800

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	4939
2	KR2Q	4616
3	N5RZ	3951
4	K3WW	3844
5	KY4GS	3647
6	OM2VL	3410
7	NA8V	3259
8	KC7V	3163
9	N5TJ	3124
10	K7QA	3107
11	KO4VW	2975
12	KG9X	2797
13	DL6KVA	2622
14	WT9U	2555
15	K1VUT	2511
16	N7US	2494
17	EA1X	2380
18	AA2IL	2349
19	W4CMG	2275
20	F6HKA	2189
21	K9WX	2034
22	VE3TM	1985
23	WN7S	1923
24	K1AJ	1907
25	K1DJ	1886
26	NJ3K	1883
27	EA6BF	1859
28	WS7L	1795
29	W8FN	1781
30	N4DW	1761
31	K6NR	1719
32	N5KD	1707
33	KM4FO	1686
33	N5XE	1686
34	KW7Q	1650
35	W0VX	1612
36	K3JT	1595
37	KC3M	1582
38	W9ILY	1580
39	SM6CUK	1565
40	KW1X	1563
41	NE2V	1557
42	WT3K	1556

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14923
2	K3WW	11444
3	N5RZ	10647
4	KR2Q	10500
5	N5ZO	10203
6	DL6KVA	9717
7	NA8V	9711
8	W1RM	9506
9	F6HKA	9069
10	VE3KI	8280
11	K3WJV	8228
12	OM2VL	8124
13	K7QA	7938
14	KG9X	7919
15	KC7V	7824
16	N7US	7774
17	W9ILY	7433
18	WT9U	7166
19	K1VUT	7035
20	W0VX	6941
21	N4DW	6895
22	K3JT	6763
23	KY4GS	6732
24	K9WX	6694
25	N5TJ	6546
26	K6NR	6239
27	K1DJ	6193
28	SM6CUK	6114
28	N1DC	6114
29	WT3K	6091
30	N2UU	6052
31	W4WF	6037
32	K4IU	5984
33	WN7S	5899
34	9A1AA	5665
35	EA1X	5577
36	AA5JF	5563
37	W8FN	5516
38	G4BUE	5491
39	AC6ZM	5462
40	VE3TM	5444
41	KO4VW	5427
42	W0UO	5396

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ACA

41	KW1X	795
42	AC6ZM	794
43	WS7L	792
44	W5AL	772
45	N3CKI	771
46	KW7Q	768
46	N1DC	768
47	K3ZA	765
48	N9FZ	761
49	KV8Q	732
50	KR3E	728
51	KOWA	727
52	EA6EJ	722
53	WU6P	720
54	AA5JF	716
55	N5XE	715
56	N2UU	714
57	NA4J	713
58	SM6CUK	698
59	DF7TV	697
60	AF5J	695
61	VE3KI	690
62	W0VX	684
63	K4TZ	683
64	N2EIM	677
65	N9UNX	676
66	W4WF	666
67	KT5V	647
67	WA9LEY	647
68	DL5XL	634
69	VE9KK	627
70	K4IU	625
71	W8XAL	616
72	VE3INE	614
73	M0RYB	613
74	ND9M	607
75	K4GM	600
76	VE3MV	598
77	W9CF	593
78	K5OHY	592
79	NE5A	584
80	WE4AUB	580
81	KB8GAE	576
82	N1CFO	571
83	AF4T	569
84	VE3KIU	568
85	G4PVM	563
86	KE4CR	555
87	OZ3SM	547

ACMA

43	N2UU	1549
44	W0UO	1544
45	W1RM	1513
46	W5AL	1499
46	EA6EJ	1499
47	K1SM	1484
48	F5SGI	1469
49	N3CKI	1440
50	AF5J	1412
51	AC6ZM	1391
52	WU6P	1379
53	NA4J	1367
54	N1DC	1358
55	VE3KI	1356
56	VK2GR	1349
57	W4WF	1329
58	WA9LEY	1309
59	M0RYB	1307
60	AA5JF	1292
61	K3ZA	1278
62	KV8Q	1270
63	VE3MV	1244
64	DL5XL	1230
65	K4IU	1225
66	N9FZ	1224
67	N9UNX	1187
68	G4PVM	1184
69	W9CF	1162
70	DF7TV	1161
71	K4GM	1155
72	K3QP	1153
73	DJ5CW	1139
74	K4TZ	1136
74	W0TG	1136
75	OZ3SM	1123
76	ND9M	1097
77	AF4T	1071
78	VE3INE	1047
79	WS1L	1040
80	KR3E	1039
81	N5ER	1031
82	VE9KK	999
83	WE4AUB	994
84	WB5N	968
85	LY2MM	964
86	G3NKC	960
87	W8XAL	956
88	KY0Q	955
89	KOWA	952

CMA

43	K1SM	5319
44	NJ3K	5283
45	N5XE	5107
46	GW0ETF	5078
47	AA2IL	5042
48	NA4J	5019
49	WA9LEY	5000
50	F6JOE	4895
51	WA4JUK	4821
52	WS7L	4767
53	OK1RR	4750
54	K4GM	4735
55	K3QP	4711
56	K1AJ	4698
57	KT5V	4632
58	WN4AFP	4593
59	VE3MV	4530
60	VK2GR	4523
61	DF7TV	4444
62	EA6BF	4435
63	OZ3SM	4426
64	DJ5CW	4406
64	I2WIJ	4406
65	W6AYC	4305
66	KM4FO	4279
67	KOWA	4265
68	N5KD	4251
69	W4CMG	4149
70	F5SGI	4140
71	KY0Q	4128
72	DM6EE	4057
73	W0TG	4051
74	G4PVM	4044
75	WS1L	4041
76	AF5J	4011
77	K0TC	3987
78	N1EN	3977
79	NE5A	3974
80	W3WHK	3945
81	KV8Q	3943
82	WU6P	3918
83	KK0U	3856
84	KW7Q	3849
85	M0RYB	3846
86	ND9M	3841
87	W2CDO	3801
88	AF4T	3716
89	NE2V	3673
90	EA6EJ	3642

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ACA

88	KT4XN	541
89	N5ER	538
90	KK0U	533
91	DJ5CW	527
91	N3RTW	527
92	NB7O	522
93	K9CPO	519
94	WB5N	514
95	W3WHK	512
96	KY0Q	511
97	K1RF	506
98	W0TG	497
99	G3LDI	495
100	WN4AFP	494

ACMA

90	K1RF	944
91	VE3KIU	933
92	KT5V	931
93	NB7O	929
94	W3WHK	922
95	K9CW	907
96	K5OHY	905
97	KB8GAE	902
98	G3LDI	894
99	KT4XN	878
99	SM0HEV	878
100	NE5A	867

CMA

91	SM0HEV	3637
92	K4TZ	3590
93	HB9ARF	3571
94	N3CKI	3561
95	KR3E	3493
96	K3ZA	3437
97	KC3M	3394
98	4X6GP	3294
99	K2YR	3246
100	NN4K	3245

73, Bill W0TG (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards

XXT Schedule

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



QTX: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Dan Romanchik](#), KB6NU

Tips for Ragchewing

Dictionaries differ on the origin of the term “chew the rag,” but as readers of this column know, in amateur radio, it means to have a nice, long conversation. For me, it’s one of the joys of amateur radio, although fewer and fewer of us seem to think so. How else do you explain the success of FT8?

Indeed, ragchewing seems to be quickly becoming a lost art. I once got an email from a fellow CWops member who offered an explanation. He wrote:

“A few weeks ago, I was surprised to read a reflector post by a fine CW contester asking advice on how to get started ragchewing. That post made me wonder if there are fluent speakers of CW who just need some tips on how to relax and enjoy talking “off the tip of their key” with another lover of our fine mode and language.

“Would you be willing to share your thoughts about what makes a great ragchew or rag-chewer? What would you say to someone who knows the code but feels awkward or uncertain in abandoning the contest exchange and sitting back for a ragchew? How do you know what to talk about? Any “secrets” for getting past RST, QTH, NAME, RIG, and WX? Did a ragchew ever mean a lot to you, and if so, why? How did you get to be so good at making conversation?”

I was honored that he would ask my opinion, I quickly replied.

I think that first of all, you have to approach nearly every CW contact as an opportunity for a ragchew. That is to say an opportunity to make contact with another human being.

Have you ever struck up a conversation with a stranger in a bar or at a sporting event or the grocery store? Well, approach a CW contact in the same way. In the grocery store, you might comment on the price of potatoes. On the air, you might ask for details on the other op’s antenna or ask if they have built anything lately.

Here’s another tip. Avoid talking about the weather. Even when the other operator gives me a full weather report, often I’ll just ignore it and move on to other topics.

One way to determine what those other topics might be is to call up the other operator’s QRZ.Com page. Often, hams describe their vocations and other avocations on their QRZ.Com page. These are often good conversation starters. I’m a freelance writer, and one guy that I worked noted that he was a publisher on his QRZ.com page. That got us started on an interesting discussion of the publishing business.

Ask questions. In real life, you might ask your neighbor how he or she likes the car they have or if they’ve seen a new movie. On the air, you might ask the other operator what kind of key they’re using and how they like it.

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If you want to be more provocative—and I do like to stir the pot once in a while—you might ask them if they're an ARRL member and what they think about some of the things that the ARRL has been doing lately.

Finally, the best advice that I can give is to get on the air and practice. I can certainly see where it might be difficult for a contester to become a ragchewer. They are two different modes of operation. The way contests are run these days, contesters rarely have to touch a key.

The only way to develop the fluency between the mind and the fingers is to practice. And, as you make more and more conversational contacts, you'll find that thoughts will flow more easily between the mind and the fingers. It's a real joy when that happens.

Having said all that, what are your tips for CW ragchewing? I'd love to highlight them in a future column.

73, Dan #1418



K8UDH: I had a very enjoyable QSO with a ham who was first licensed in 1951. We talked for quite a while about the experiences we had on the air when we were new novices. Ham radio has changed in many ways since then, but CW ragchewing has not. It's just as much fun now as it was many years ago.

N8AI: I had an almost hour long QSO with W8VNZ about the Glen Arbor area, where we stayed on my 50th high school reunion trip. The laptop with my log on it died in August, but I did not lose old log. Even so, my QTX totals are smaller because it took me two weeks to replace the computer.

DK9HE: This month I had my first QTX-DX-Bug-QSO with John K5MO NC on 17 m. We had a lot of fun in excellent condx.

WS1L: Started the month with a nice chat with Chris, N8AI about remote rigs and networking. Ended it with another with Van, N5TOO, about my former employer and his alma mater opening the college football season.

ABØWW: Nine QSOs in August, but nobody wanted to stay with me longer than nine minutes. I hope for better results in September.

N7HCN: Lots of CW this month. Many QSOs were with friends in the Pacific Amateur Radio Guild (PARG) social CW net. It meets near 7034 kc daily at 1500Z (9am Pacific). Join us!

W8OV: Had a 31 min. QSO with Mike, a retired surveyor, who now does POTA and SOTA. Worked him 2.5 years ago.

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WA4IAR: Been very busy this summer not much time to operate.

KG5IEE: 'More fun ragchews this month. Really enjoy when I can get a good ragchew on one of my vintage rigs. Had an interesting QSO with Craig N2DA while he was on vacation in Erie, PA. He has his Buddipole vertical leaning against the wall in a corner of the rental house and was sending standing up using the bed as the surface for his key.

KB6NU: My count was low again this month due to traveling and being sick for a week. Hope to have better totals in September!

KF9VV: Starting to build some relationships with ongoing chats. That has been very rewarding.

DL5XL: Conditions improved towards the end of the month, but generally high bands were not too productive in August. I enjoyed a great chat with MØMZB about SOTA, and a few other nice ragchews.

K1NW: Our local CWops students have a regular ragchew net Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Participating stations include K1NW (CWops #3783), W1SIM (CWops #3784), KA1QAP, and KD1MD (CWops #3745).

DG5CW: My mQTX QSOs this month were all made using a battery-powered QMX running at about 3 watts only. My longest chat in August was a fantastic and stable 36-minute chat with Rudi, DF1ZA. Thanks for the fun! 73 de Tom.

QTX Certificates

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



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QTX - August 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>
N7HCN	59	KB6NU	20	F5IYJ	9	GW0ETF	3	G4KKU	1
WS1L	45	KF9VV	20	N3JT	6	W8OV	2		
WA4IAR	36	DK9HE	18	K8UDH	5	DL5XL	2		
N8AI	28	KG5IEE	16	K1NW	4	DG5CW	2		

mQTX - August 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>	KB4DE	2
WS1L	33	KB6NU	15	N3JT	9	N7HCN	4		
DK9HE	31	G4KKU	15	DL5XL	8	N8AI	4		
KG5IEE	22	KF9VV	14	GW0ETF	7	K1NW	4		
WA4IAR	16	F5IYJ	11	DG5CW	6	K8UDH	2		

QTX - Total 2025

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
WA4IAR	417	KR2Q	151	K8UDH	61	GW0ETF	8	DF7TV	4
WS1L	365	AA0YY	149	N9EEE	34	K7VM	8	K1NW	4
VE3WH	359	K9OZ	143	DL5XL	24	KE4I	8	SV2BBK	3
N7HCN	294	M0KTZ	139	N9FZ	24	M0SDB	8	W3WHK	3
N8AI	290	KG5IEE	127	DG5CW	22	W6QX	8	PG4I	2
KY4GS	228	KF9VV	110	AB0WW	20	G4KKU	7	MM0UMH	1
KB6NU	193	G0FOZ	91	N5LB	19	K4LFL	7		
KC0VKN	185	N2DA	80	N0BM	17	PE2V	7		
M0MZB	166	AJ1DM	67	W8OV	17	N3JT	6		
DK9HE	156	F5IYJ	62	AE4GS	14	VK3QB	5		

mQTX - Total 2025

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>
WS1L	262	KB6NU	136	F5IYJ	34	KB4DE	23	K7VM	5
M0KTZ	252	KF9VV	99	K8UDH	33	PG4I	23	K1NW	4
WA4IAR	181	DL5XL	64	AJ1DM	29	G4KKU	20	N7HCN	4
G0FOZ	169	DK9HE	51	N9FZ	28	W8OV	15	N5LB	2
VE3WH	167	GW0ETF	48	PE2V	27	AE4GS	14	W3WHK	2
KR2Q	153	N8AI	45	DG5CW	26	M0SDB	14	W6QX	2
AA0YY	150	DF7TV	40	N9EEE	26	K4LFL	9		
M0MZB	143	VK3QB	40	N0BM	26	N3JT	9		
KG5IEE	139	AB0WW	36	SV2BBK	26	KE4I	7		



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

Noah Burton, W1NGO CWops #3779

I was born in 1988 in Kansas City, Kansas, a city I now know nothing about other than that it's definitely not Kansas City, Missouri. Tornadoes occasionally were around us, I was told. I was one of those military children who, due to moving around in my early years, found it easy to talk and make new friends wherever our family moved (perhaps I should now see that as foreshadowing as to why I would at all be interesting in communicating with random humans all across the globe via invisible radio waves...but as they say "Hindsight is 599.")

After my father retired from the Army at the rank of Lt. Colonel, I spent most of my youth in the suburbs of northern Virginia with its man-made lakes, strip malls, and traffic. By 2007 I was ready to leave that all behind me. So, I moved to Richmond, VA and began my undergraduate studies and incessant alleyway exploring.

At this point the mechanical keyboard is getting fed up with me talking about myself. "I'm sorry bub, but this is what the people want! I feel strange about it but let's just power thru and share what we can..."

"Sure", he says, "It's taps for you..."

In 2011, after years of hard work and hard play, I earned a B.A. in analytic philosophy with a minor in creative writing from Virginia Commonwealth University. From there I made the logical decision of going for a Masters of Fine Arts in poetry at the University of New Hampshire which I received promptly in 2015. In that world, I am the author of two collections of poetry: *Clothesline Saga* (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press, 2020) and *Look Out Animal* (VA Press 2018). Have no fear! There are most certainly radios in my poems.

In the trades and professional world I am the owner and operator of Knock Knock: Natural Coffins and Custom Woodworking—because what else would a philosopher poet do other than make furniture, contemplate death, and get into ham radio?

But it's not all thinky brainy things with me, ain't that right keyboard? "It's true! He also plays the clawhammer banjo which is universally seen as a less thoughtful instrument than the guitar and more annoying than the glockenspiel in the middle of the night."

Currently, I live in Vermont along with my fiancée Sadie, our dog Mazzy Star, and our cat Boosh with no intention of leaving this Brave Little State.



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Radio has always been an interest in my life—as a kid I loved boom boxes (grew up break dancing. B-boy Snipes), the dials, shapes, sounds, and most importantly the fidelity of AM broadcast radio. Tuning was the adventurous trails between the villages and quests of the stations!

Years later, during the start of the pandemic, a group of friends and I got into CB to communicate with each other while in lockdown—from there it was only natural that I would continue to dive deeper into theory and began to study to get my Technician license which I received in September 2020 (KC1NWN).

Local comms was fun and talking on repeaters taught me much of the lingo we use on the air, but I yearned for the kind of distance that I could hear on the CB “Super Bowl.” I knew it was out there, and I could also ride those waves to Brazil or Estonia, Antarctica even!

When I got my General ticket in December of 2020, I knew that I had limited funds to get into HF—I couldn’t afford a big rig nor did I have the space for one. But I had heard that CW and QRP could still get out there across the globe, but it was a bit more of a challenge. I love a challenge, so I dove in. I joined the Long Island CW Club and bought myself a Mountain Topper 4B. After a few months of studying, I made my first contact—N4NN--using my grandfathers Speed-x straight key mounted to an old bladeless rabbit plane of his and a homebrew EFHW. I was, as so many of us ops can remember, hooked.

In the code, I found a challenge and refuge. All the kindness and fascination on the radio waves with none of the bull, along with a calming focused state when operating. But I wanted to get better and better, to be able to hear, comprehend, and “speak” the language. This led me finally to CW Academy and after a few years of being enrolled in classes taught by the impeccable and dashing Mark Tyler, K5GQ, I was at last up to the task and nominated by the Brotherhood of the Holy Moley Keys, Tom N4TTU, Bill JP3REM, Joe W4YDL, Jeremy NM5D, and of course Mark K5GQ. My sincere gratitude to you all!

Now when you catch me on the air I’ll be operating from the base, or on a summit, or from a meadow along a river with the lovely sounding CWops member number 3779. Catch y’all on the air!

Scott Ralph, VA3EKR/KK7TMS CWops #3776

I was first licensed in December 2021 through the Burlington Amateur Radio Club (BARC), a very active club with well over a hundred members. It was there that I met Bill, VE3MRX, my CW mentor, who has really encouraged me to keep working on my CW skills, and to help get others excited about CW.

I started out on SSB with an ICOM IC-7300, but it wasn’t long before I found myself drawn to Elecraft gear. These days, my shack rig is an Elecraft K2, which I love for its feel and sound. My biggest passion in the hobby is portable operations and Parks on the Air. For field work, I use my KX2 that I adore.

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It's a great excuse to explore new places and combine radio and relaxing in nature.

I started my CW journey in the fall of 2023 and have really fallen in love with that mode. I have greatly benefited from the two CWops classes I have taken, as well the intermediate and advanced classes of LICW.

Outside of amateur radio, my background is in computers, particularly Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. I've been fortunate to work in a wide variety of domains, applying interesting math and problem-solving to complex challenges.



When I'm not on the air or working, I'm often at the horse barn with my wife and daughter. While I no longer ride myself, I still love being around horses and the peaceful atmosphere they bring.

I am grateful to VE3MRX, WBØRLJ, N2EC, KW4NJA, and K2EJT for kindly nominating me and encouraging me along my CW Journey - I hope to be able to inspire others to enjoy the magical experience of CW in the future and give back to the hobby.

Brian Maynard, K1NW CWops #3783

I have been licensed since 1989, first as KE2OD then WY2G. I learned the 20 wpm code I needed for my extra license using cassette tapes and listening to an old Hammarlund HQ-200. Despite making lots of CW contacts in my first few years my career and family took precedence, and I was all phone for the next three decades.

I just retired this year after 33 years at the University of Rhode Island where I was a professor of horticulture. There I did nursery and greenhouse research and extension, and taught courses on Plant Propagation, Nursery and Greenhouse Management, Landscaping, Woody Plant Identification and Field Botany/Taxonomy. As a retirement gift to myself I completed Intermediate CWA courses with Bob, WR7Q, and most recently with John, AJ1DM. My goals are to continue improving my head copy and sending. Now I primarily make CW contacts. This year I have put together a POTA station and thanks to my POTA Elmer Brian, N1BS, I am ready to hit the parks.

My equipment includes an Elecraft K4D, KPA1500, K3X and KXPA100. Antennas are a 4-element SteppIR Yagi at 56 ft, a Cushcraft XM-240 at 68 feet, and a ZS6BKW dipole. I hope to hang an 80

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meter loop next year.

Besides radio, I enjoy landscaping, composting, rare plants, mosses and lichen identification, and family – 3 sons + partners, 2 granddaughters and 1 (relatively) patient spouse, Nancy. I live in Peace Dale, RI about 3-1/2 miles from the ocean – which I visit almost every day.

Thanks to my mentors and my love of Morse code and radio I have worked very hard to improve my speed and copy. I have no plans to slow down now. I did my first CW operation as part of the W1OP field day, then ran my first pileups as K2C in the 13 Colonies event (mind blown!). I aspire to be a regular on CWT. I am very proud to be nominated to CWops membership. I want to thank my nominator, Randy, WAØI, and sponsors AJ1DM, N1BS, WØ UO, DF7TV, W6SX, K1EBY, and NB7O.



See you on the air!

Olivier "Oli" Pasquier, F5RDS CWops #3775

First of all, I am honored to join CWops, and I would like to extend my warm thanks to Stéphane F5NZY for nominating me, and to Bud AA3B, Francis EA3FZT, and Gert PA3AAV for their kind sponsorship.

My radio journey began at age 13 with a one-tube longwave receiver I built with help from my uncle, an electronics enthusiast in the 1950s–60s. That experience sparked a long period of electronics tinkering and shortwave listening. Academic studies eventually took priority, but I was finally licensed in 1990.

I live in central Paris with my wife Françoise. We have two adult children, Alice and Vincent, and a cat named Gyoko. I'm a pharmacist by training, and after four years as a hospital intern, I joined a major pharmaceutical company over 32 years ago. I now lead a research team specializing in mass spectrometry analysis of proteins—quite far from radio, although RF frequencies play a key role in flying ions in mass spectrometry! Retirement is on the horizon.

Operating HF from Paris is challenging due to antenna restrictions and severe electrical noise and interference. For that reason, I set up my main station at our countryside home in central France, where I have plenty of space to put wire antennas and virtually total absence of noise. Seven years ago, I established a remote link as soon as a reliable internet access became availa-

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ble there, and that really brought me back to daily practice of the hobby.

My main interest is CW on the HF bands, and my remote setup supports both dual paddles and bug keys. I prefer meaningful QSOs and tend to avoid "5NN TU"-only contacts. Occasionally, I operate SSB on LEO satellites—even remotely. I'm not at all interested in digital modes.

I'm passionate about HF radios from the 1970s and '80s and have collected quite a few over the years. Space is getting tight in our apartment now that my little collection has grown to over 20 rigs. Fortunately, I have a very understanding XYL! I like building homebrew equipment and I'm currently restoring a Drake 4 line, which I plan to use with my bugs.



When the weather is nice, I love taking my motorcycle out for a ride in the countryside and spending a few hours operating portable with one of my many QRP transceivers. Outside of ham radio, I enjoy astronomy, street photography, and playing the piano.

Ham radio is a wonderful hobby that has allowed me to meet many great people over the years. In Paris, we've formed a small group of hams who meet regularly. I look forward to making new friends in CWops and hope to meet you soon on the bands.

Craig Cook, N7OR CWops #3785

I was first licensed as a Novice as a teenager in 1977. Of course, upgrading through General and Extra classes in those ancient times meant going from 5 wpm to 13 and then 20. I learned CW and had to use it and eventually learned to love it.

I heard a CW contest going on one Saturday in the early 1980s, and wanted to join in.

Having only a straight key at the time, my neighbor ham buddy loaned me a keyer and a single lever paddle contraption that he had made using a hacksaw blade. I was off and running in the ARRL CD party, if anyone remembers those. I'm no ace contesteer by any description, but I still love it. I enjoy contest exchanges I think more than a ragchew as I just don't have the old gift of gab beyond my QTH, my rig, my WX etc. though I do a bit of that as well.

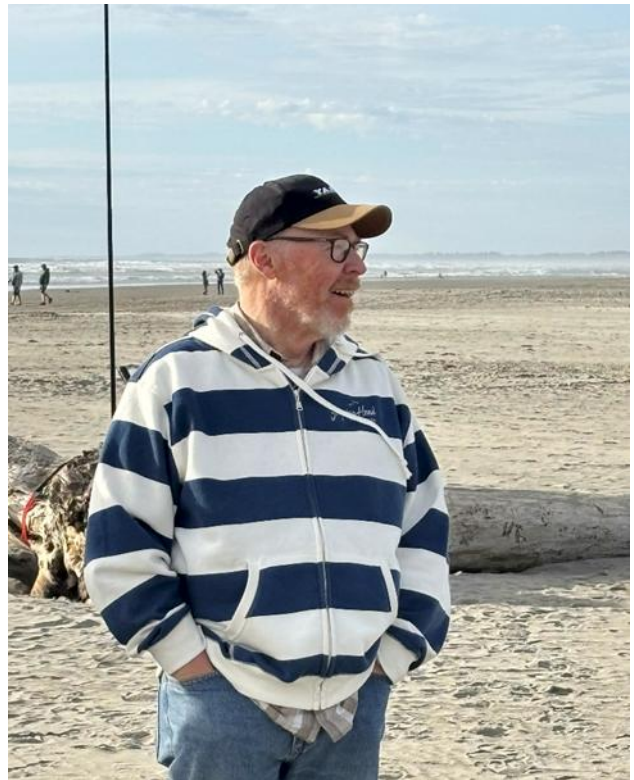
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Ham radio interests include CW of course, CW contests and, recently, CWTs. I'm finding Parks on the Air to be a lot of fun. I'm encouraged lately by the POTA guys using CW or striving to learn. But I'll call them on SSB as well. I like hunting them and I have a little field operations kit I have put together, though I haven't had much time for too many activations. I play in RTTY contests and even dabble in FT8/4 a bit. I don't find that to be very satisfying, but I'm not one of the haters. It sure is crazy popular. Love chasing DX and am a member of the Willamette Valley DX club. I volunteer as a QSL bureau section manager for the incoming QSL bureau.

I live in Sandy, Oregon with my lovely wife Dawn and our 13 year old mutt, Annie. I have one son, N7ORA but inactive ham, who lives with his family in Raleigh, NC. Other interests include RC model airplanes, motorcycle rides, and being a fan of motorsports like NHRA and supercross. Sports fan in general. Together, Dawn and I love hiking, camping, kayaking, bicycling, gardening and riding together on what I call the big motorcycle. Honestly, she does a vast majority of the gardening. She recently retired and I will be done in February of 2026 as well. More time for all the fun activities. I have spent most of my career as an RF technician. First in a commercial Motorola shop, and for the last 20 years for a public safety first responder 3 county system.

I am honored to be a CWops member and will see you all on the air.



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