

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter
May 2026 — Issue 196

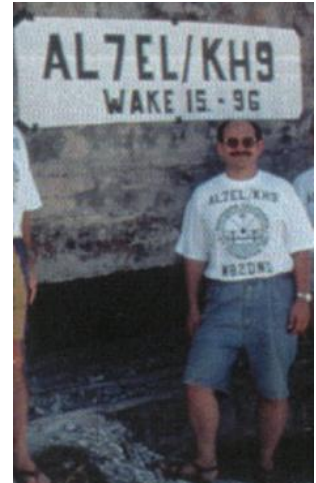
President's Message



Drone view of "Radio Mountain" on Bonaire. Read about Remote Radio from PJ4A on page 17.

You can file this under "grumpy old man rants". I was thinking about this month's column and looked up at my wall. Check out my QRZ.com profile and look at the first picture.

This month's column is based on the collection of QSL cards on the wall behind me.



(Continued on next page)

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

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

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

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There are some really vintage cards up there ranging from KH6IJ to 9V1YC. KH6IJ was my first CW DX worked. Do you remember your first CW QSO? My son's was JA1NUT on 15 meters. I've been DXing over 60 years and have boxes and boxes of QSLs. They are sorted by country and mode. The bulk of them are CW.

Today's new hams are a different breed. Is it a mentoring issue? Has technology made us all lazy?

Many of us here who chase the ARRL challenge award live on 6 and 160 mtrs. I have over 319 countries on 160 of which over 300 were worked years ago and on CW. Tune 160 these days. How often do you encounter a CW station? A CQ on 1822 goes unanswered. Even DXpeditions on 160 CW try a while and go back to FT8. FT8 came on the 6-meter scene in 2017. I had around 125 countries back then, 90% CW. I'm now at 210 confirmed and the ratio of digital vs CW since then has flipped 100%. Reading a book or browsing the internet in a KST chat room while working a new one just doesn't have the same wow factor. The DX at the other end might even be a robot.

And DXpeditions have changed the script too. In the 1980s, I operated from A61AD when it was number 16 on the most wanted list. I operated evenings after a trade show or business meetings. A look back at the log shows 50% of the QSOs on CW, 45% SSB and 5% RTTY. I decided to browse Clublog for major DXpeditions at 5 year intervals for trends. The trend is not encouraging. Yes, there are some outliers to this sample, but we all know the game has changed. Let's start with A52A in 2000 (it included a lot of founding CWops members, including myself and our director, 9V1YC). Total QSOs were 82,000 and roughly 50% CW/SSB. In 2004, 3B9C made 153,000 QSOs with 50 split as well. In 2013, C82DX (which included Rob K6RB, Ken JN1THL, quite a few CWops members and myself) made 58% of our QSOs on CW. In 2014, the big Kergulen FT4ZM DXpedition was also 50/50. Throughout the 2010s 50/50 was a good normal mix. Some hit 60% CW. But in the last 10 years the mix has shifted. Most expeditions since then are 1/3 to 1/4 CW. SSB is down to 5% and recently we are seeing close to 70% digital. A recent Africa DXpedition was 93% digital. The record-setting group at J51A made an amazing 256,000 and only 1/3 was digital. The rest were evenly split among CW and SSB.

What can we do? When QSLing and the box comes up to make a donation, base your donation on the human factor. Did you work a fully automated MHSV robot? Why tip that? Donating in advance? Send the organizers a note inquiring on their planned modes. Let them know your concerns.

Last week I got one of the smallest packets of cards from the bureau ever. It seems along with DX being mostly digital, even QSLs are coming by email. I guess I'm just old fashioned. I still read my Boston Globe every morning on paper.

Lastly, many of us will be at Dayton. Over 160 have signed up for the CWops dinner. I remember the early days of this event when we could all fit in the small railroad car in the back of the Spaghetti Warehouse. I bet that room didn't hold 30 people. We've come a long way!!! See you there.

73, Don, N1DG, President (CWops #2)



Editor's Notes:

Hamvention

So why does everything seem to orbit around Hamvention? Last year's attendance hit 36,814—almost all licensed amateur radio operators—and that set a new record for “Dayton.” But put that next to the 734,449 licensed hams in the U.S. as of May 6, and you realize that “only” about 5% of us make the annual pilgrimage for three days of shopping, learning, camaraderie, and yes... pork chop sandwiches. So what's the big deal?

For starters, it's simply impressive. The entire Dayton area shifts into Hamvention mode. Hotels and AirBnBs fill with operators who drive one-handed because the other is holding a mic. Local TV runs nightly stories about what we're up to. You'll hear weather forecasts tailored to the flea market, traffic reports keyed to show hours, and even tips on side adventures for the intrepid ham.

Then there's the scale. Everything is big. The footprint is big. The commercial vendor count is big. The ARRL presence—nearly half a building—is big. The flea market is big. And four large halls running simultaneous forums for two and a half days? Also big. (Note: Our own Bob Carter, WR7G, presents “CWops and CW Academy: The Proven Path to CW Mastery” on Sunday at 11:35 a.m.) And despite the size, it's remarkably organized. And clean.

Leaving at the end of the day can be tough. You get that nagging feeling you missed something and need to circle back. The jokesters will tell you it was your wallet. They're not wrong. No one walks those aisles “just to look,” no matter what they claim.

And of course, Hamvention isn't just Hamvention. It's the CWops dinner, DX dinner, Contest dinner, QRP dinner, Contest University, Four Days in May, hospitality rooms, performance challenges, and the inevitable band that shows up to play ham-themed tunes. It's a whole ecosystem.

Now I need some help. If you're going to be part of the wonderful chaos this year, keep me in mind. Take pictures—cool stuff, odd stuff, happy moments, new friends, old friends, the porcupine-antenna car, the guy with the tower on his hard hat. Send them my way and I'll pick the best for the June issue of *Solid Copy*.

And if you're attending the CWops dinner, **I could use your help.** Last year I managed to photograph everyone but had no reliable way to match names and call signs. That was a miss. Name badges help, but not enough. So this year, I'm counting on you: take a selfie with your tablemates and email it to me along with everyone's name and call sign. I know we won't get 100%, but we'll give it a solid try.

See you at Hamvention!

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

Editor, Solid Copy

SolidCopy@cwops.org



North America CW Weekend

[Don Lynch](#), W4ZYT (CWops #55)

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

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

We are delighted to welcome regulars back, and look forward to meeting some new players.

There is a nominal registration of \$25 per couple or \$15 per single person. This will help defray costs and fees. Any excess will be donated to the CWops Scholarship fund. Please send your check, made out to Don Lynch W4ZYT at 1517 West Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717.

QUESTIONS/INQUIRIES:

Email any questions to Don at: w4zyt.don@gmail.com

Event Summary

Start Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026

End Date: Monday, June 14, 2026

Hotel Information

Fairview Park Marriott (This has been the usual for the past several years)

3111 Fairview Park Drive

Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 703-849-9400

Rate: \$ 129.00 plus taxes/night (Friday/Saturday)

Reservations: 800-228-9290 (Event Block is: North American CW Weekend)

Here is a reservation link. 1-800-627-7468. If you have problems with this link, please call 1-855-297-1430. Book your group rate for North American CW Room Block

Last Day to Book at the Group Rate: Friday, May 15, 2026



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Program Details

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

Friday Evening (6/12) at 1800

Pizza

Pines of Florence (new this year!)

6852 Old Dominion Dr,

McLean, VA 22101 .

Salad, beverage (non-alcoholic), unlimited pizza. Alcohol available.

Dress casual. Individual checks

Saturday Brunch (6/13) from 0900 to 1200

Brunch

Home of

Nina Lane, K4NML and Jim Talens, N3JT

6017 Woodley Road

McLean, VA 22101

Phone 703-241-1144

Saturday Dinner (6/13) from 1800 until...

Metro 29 Diner

4711 Lee Highway

Arlington, VA 22207

703-528-2454

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

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

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

Vy 73, Don W4ZYT



Ops News and Notes

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

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#) You'll notice we have a painfully thin postbag this month. This is your space to let our Members know about an interesting activation, an operating award, a shiny new key or perhaps a useful gizmo that makes your CW experience even better. Please send all submissions to me at NewsAndNotes@cwops.org and remember, there's no need to wait for Dick's monthly call for articles, or my reminder. TU!

Ken, KN2D #3566 Here's how my shack has evolved!



#1 is my FT-710

#2 is HamClock on a 20" monitor

#3 is FT8 running on a 15.6" portable monitor (soon to be replaced by a 20" screen)

#4 is a 20" monitor I use as an external monitor for the FT710

#5 is a 32" monitor with ACllog and a DX Spotter showing

#6 is RBN on my 17" laptop.

There's also a Stream Deck below the 32" monitor.

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Randy, W8FN #1864 Just received my new Elecraft KPA1500 amplifier, to replace the KPA500 in my primary station. This will be the first time in nearly 30 years that I've had full legal power capability. Hope the additional 4 dB or so will help pad my CWT and contest logs at least a little bit.

Jim, N3JT #1 Nina and I plan on visiting the Carnegie Institution for Science Las Campanas Observatory in Chile's Atacama Region in early October. These are the deep-space telescopes used to map and observe the universe (and maybe find my lost QSL cards from my youth). Astride that trip, I hope to meet up with some of the CE gang!

Peter, GMØEUL #1899 I attended the Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association (NARSA) rally in Blackpool on 11th April. I was primarily there selling miniature Morse keys, but also representing CWops, as I did at the Telford rally last year. It's a good combination because the keys often draw people in for a conversation about CW. If anyone meets my eye I usually ask, "are you a CW man?" Some people are not, which is fair enough. Others are SOTA or POTA operators and are genuinely interested in the keys, or they have heard about them and want a closer look. Then there are a lot of people who are interested in learning or re-learning CW. I pointed several people towards CW Academy and hopefully some will follow-up.

There are always interesting people to meet; I spent the Saturday evening in the bar with a couple of ex-military electronics specialists from the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society. They had some stories to tell over several beers and a couple of whiskeys.

On Sunday it was great to meet Stewart G3YSX, CWops #3891 and Board Chair of the RSGB. We have some illustrious members!

Stewart, G3YSX #3891, RSGB Board Chair



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The picture below is the Norbreck Castle Hotel where the show is held. It was built as a private house in 1869 and later had a lavish ballroom added. It was turned into a 400-room hotel after refurbishment in 1952. For those who don't know, Blackpool is referred to as "Las Vegas of the North" and, as well as the largest radio rally in the North of England, it is famous for the fantastic Blackpool Illuminations that light up the strip every autumn.



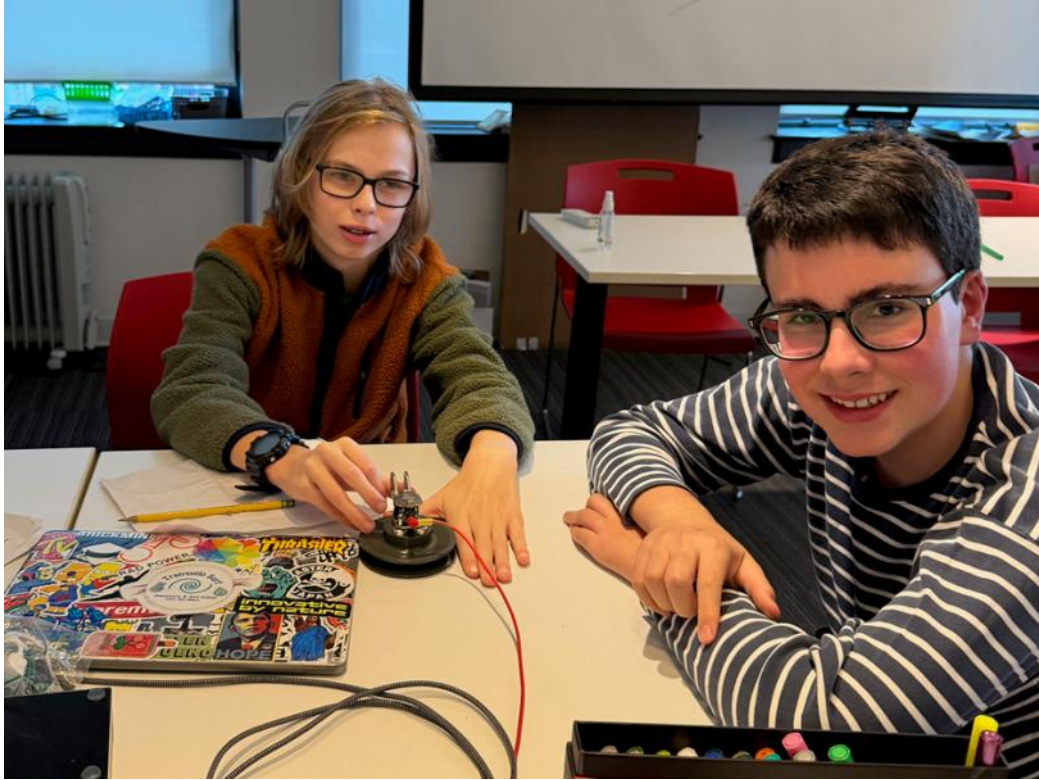
Guy, VA7GI #3256 Shown on the next page are two of my students at the Vancouver Independent School for Science and Technology. VISST is a small STEM high school of about 100 students located in a city building.

Liam (13) is using paddles (we don't use straight keys) for code practice. Remy (14) can copy 10+ WPM. The boys are also studying for the Canadian Basic license exam. In Canada, CW skills can earn HF privileges for new hams.

The early teenage years are the ideal time to teach CW. The students love the challenge!

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L-R: Liam & Remy at the High School CW Class 2026, April 26.

Alan, AI3A #3053 April 30, 2026 was a fine Spring day in Northern California. I took a short drive to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, CA, and set up next to the American River. That's where John Marshall first discovered gold in 1848, setting off the gold rush of 1849. I made 17 POTA contacts on 20 meters with only 3 watts, even to the east coast, despite the hills to the east of my QTH seen across the river in the picture.



Call Sign	Power	State	Time
4/30/26	21300	AI3A	21:40
4:050 30w	339	AL	21:42
AASHH	559	TX	21:45
AD4ES	559	FL	21:50
N70C	559	WA	21:52
QRL			21:54
KX4SR	339	GA	21:58
AA0LA	559	MN	22:00
K1SGTR	559	AR	22:01
KAOBLDG	559	ND	22:02
WA2SPL	339	VT	22:08
NSJWP	559	TX	22:11
N270	8579	NM	22:27
KI7PBR	339	AZ	
NSJWP	559	TX	
7:050 40m			
AJ6GL	449	CA	22:39
14:050			22:40
K2CF	449	VA	22:46
K3ONW	559	PA	22:47
AC5K	439	MO	
N2ESE	529	NJ	

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Duncan, G3WZD/M3F #1979 I found this in the latest monthly [Netherlands Telegraphy Club](#) (NTC) newsletter, and is reproduced with their permission

CW FOREVER AND EVER

by Jim Hatherley, [WA1BTY](#) (SK)

You must have, at times, thought into the past,
Where some things go out, while other last,
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,
from any abode.

To talk with ones fingers, is surely an art,
Of any info you care to impart,
In most conditions the signals get thru,
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs cut through the trash,
Of nearby noise or lightning's crash,
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver,
Who records this data with ardent fever.

He knows he's doing something unique,
in such poor conditions, that's quite a feat!
To roger the message that came off the air,
These brass pounders sure do have this flair.

They say Morse ops are a dying breed,
But don't despair, there's always that need,
That when conditions get rough for the new automation,
Be rest assured, there'll be need for your station.

CW is dying? believe it never,
This mode will be 'round forever and ever,
But one thing is sure, what we really need,
Is to relay our knowledge to the younger breed.
To carry the torch, long after we're gone,
To send Morse Code thru the air like a song,
When at last, Silent Keys pull that final lever,
We can rest in peace, it's CW forever.

On that note, and until the next News and Notes, QAC!

Duncan, G3WZD (CWops #1979)



How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

WA4PGM, Kyle Chavis, CWops #255



WA4PGM/0 - Lots of hair! Operating the 1982 Novice Roundup while living in Hazelwood, Missouri. 660 Qs, 56 sections, 30 DX. 4th place overall.



WA4PGM - CWops #255 with very little hair! Nowadays at home in Virginia celebrating my 49th year as a ham.

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)

HF Noise Floor

[Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA](#) (CWops #920)

In the October 2025 Newsletter, I commented that propagation on 160m, 80m and even 40m should improve a bit in the fall and winter months due to slowly approaching solar minimum (which should occur around 2031). But this needs to be tempered with the fact that our society is increasingly electronic in nature, which results in higher values of man-made noise.

The baseline data for man-made noise is from the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) in their report Recommendation ITU-R P.372-17 Radio Noise. The data is from the 1970s. Figure 1 shows the data for a residential, rural and quiet rural noise environment versus operating frequency in a CW bandwidth (500 Hz) using a vertical monopole.

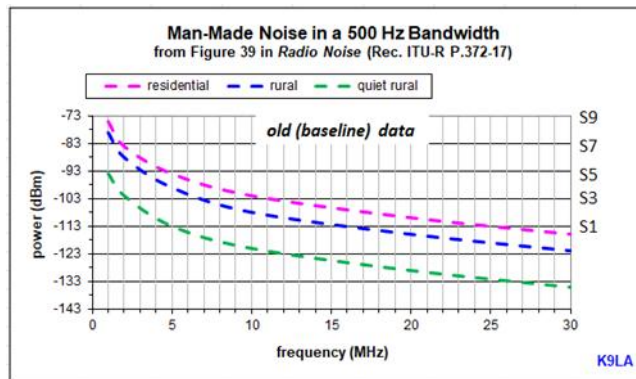


Figure 1

With S9 = -73 dBm and 5 dB per S-unit (what I've measured on several receivers), the noise on 160m, 80m and 40m in a residential environment is S7, S6 and S4, respectively. The noise in a rural environment on 160m, 80m and 40m is S6, S5 and S3, respectively. The noise in a quiet rural environment on 160m, 80m and 40m is S3, S2 and < S1, respectively.

The new data (circa 2019) comes from *Measurement Methodology and Results of Measurements of the Man-Made Noise Floor on HF in The Netherlands* by Fockens, Zwamborn and Leferink in the **IEEE Transactions on Electromagnetic Compatibility** (Vol. 61, No. 2, April 2019). The first two authors are also with the Dutch Amateur Radio Society (VERON). Table 2 is a comparison of old data versus new data in terms of S-units.

	residential			rural			quiet rural		
	160m	80m	40m	160m	80m	40m	160m	80m	40m
old data	S7	S6	S4	S6	S5	S3	S3	S2	< S1
new data	S9+10	S8	S5	S8	S6	S4	S3.5	S2	< S1

Figure 2

If you're in a residential or rural noise environment, it would be good to have a receive antenna. If you're in a quiet rural noise environment, you may not see much degradation.



VFO Keying Ideas for Boat Anchor QSK

[Ed Goss, N3CW](#) (CWops #1509)

Various approaches to setting up full QSK with older boat anchor transmitters and receivers have been discussed in numerous past articles. Many QSK setups use tube-type T/R switches such as the Johnson 250-39 or the B&W 380/381 models. Other T/R switches were relay-based (using either high speed switching relays or vacuum relays), and a few T/R switches were PIN diode designs. No matter what T/R switch was used, keying a separate VFO was often problematic. The author is not aware of any commercial T/R switch that provided for VFO keying, which sometimes came from the transmitter itself and was usually relay-based, thereby defeating the goal of full QSK. For example, the Drake 2-NT featured an internal antenna relay with a rear-panel jack provided for VFO key use, and associated relay delay adjustment on the front panel. In stock configuration, the internal 2-NT relay design, when used without an external T/R switch, was best for semi-QSK. This article presents two easily-incorporated and new (at least to the author) ideas for VFO keying which will enable full QSK while eliminating the VFO oscillator signal on the receive frequency. The two approaches make use of either a keyer PTT line output or keyer dual keyed line outputs.

The boat anchor station shown below was used to test the two VFO keying methods presented in this article. The main components of the station feature a Drake 2-NT transmitter, R-4B receiver, a Johnson T/R switch (not seen), and a Globe V-10 VFO. A Hallicrafters HA-5 VFO was also tried with good results equal to the Globe V-10.



Figure 1. Boat anchor station equipment.

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The station block diagram as configured for QSK is shown below. A couple “non-standard” blocks may be seen. The foot switch relay box is a small accessory which contains a 12-volt relay. It is not required for QSK, but allows for ease of VFO spotting via use of a foot switch, which is very convenient when operating contests. By depressing the foot switch, a relay disconnects the VFO from the transmitter and keys the VFO but not the transmitter, allowing the spot signal to be heard in the receiver. The keyer output goes through a grid-block keying interface circuit (a Universal Keying Module as described in QST, November 2008) which isolates the MORTTY keyer from negative voltages on the Drake 2-NT key jack. The keyer output goes through a grid-block keying interface circuit (a Universal Keying Module as described in QST, November 2008) which isolates the MORTTY keyer from negative voltages on the Drake 2-NT key jack.

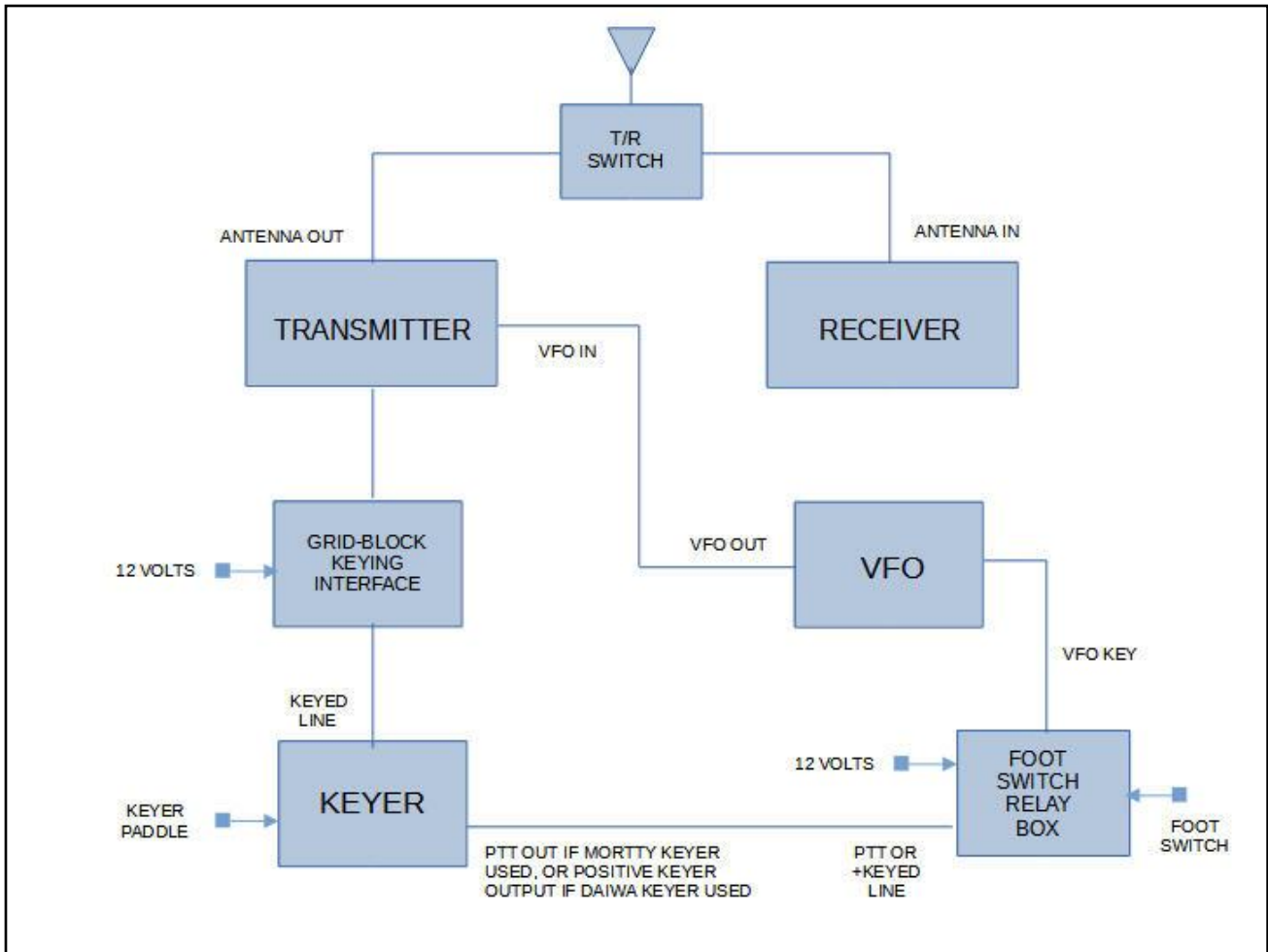


Figure 2. Station block diagram.

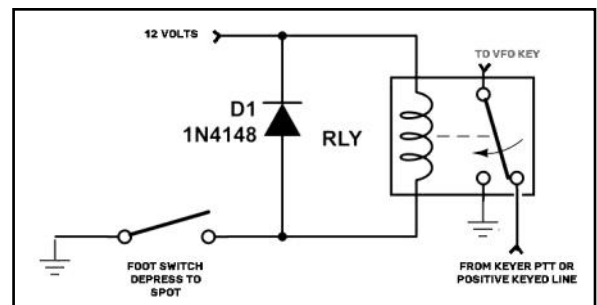


Figure 3. Footswitch relay box schematic.

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USE OF KEYSER PTT LINE FOR VFO KEYING

The keyer selected for use with the PTT approach is a MORTTY v4. I am familiar with the K1EL Winkeyer and the MORTTY keyer; both offer a PTT output and both of these were tested. MORTTY documentation states that the PTT line lead and tail times can be set by a controlling software program (such as N1MM); however, the MORTTY device in this case is run without any controlling software, and the PTT line follows the keyed line. This fact is the basis for why full QSK works with the MORTTY keyer in this setup. The VFO can be reliably keyed by the PTT line, and the VFO oscillator is completely shut off in between Morse character elements.



Figure 4. Grid-block keying interface and MORTTY keyer.

USE OF A DUAL-OUTPUT KEYSER (DAIWA DK-210)

Should the user not want to incorporate a keyer with PTT output based on the Winkey, a more traditional boat anchor-era keyer can be used. For the station shown above, a Daiwa DK-210 keyer was chosen because it offered two outputs, both simultaneously active. One output is designed to key negative voltages as seen with a grid-block transmitter, and the other output is designed to key much higher positive cathode-keyed voltages. The two output jacks can be seen on the rear panel photo. The Daiwa positive keying output is used to key the Globe VFO, allowing for full QSK while eliminating hearing the VFO oscillator in the receiver when not transmitting. It should be noted that the grid-block keying interface is not necessary when using the Daiwa keyer.

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Figure 5. Daiwa DK-210 keyer front panel.



Figure 6. Daiwa DK-210 rear panel showing dual outputs.

In summary, while the ideas shown have been demonstrated to work, they are somewhat dependent on the keyer selected for use. However, both these ideas can be considered for use with other types of boat anchor equipment, and those interested in full QSK are encouraged to experiment.

Remote Radio with David Minster, NA2AA

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

Last year, I ran a series of articles on Remote Radio for the everyday ham—an effort sparked by my own need to operate while living for nearly a year in a temporary, steel-and-brick residence that was anything but RF-friendly. With so little consolidated practical information available, it felt important to share what I had learned and to invite other members to contribute their own remote setups to broaden our collective knowledge in *Solid Copy*.

Then I discovered that NA2AA, David Minster, CEO of the ARRL and a fellow CWops member, operates a station in Bonaire with full remote capability. That alone made him a “must-have” interview. And just as I was gaining traction with David, Bill Salyers, AJ8B, CWops #879, raised the stakes: he offered to host the interview as part of an episode of his YouTube series, *The DX Mentor*.

I’ll admit—I’m a far more natural newsletter editor than YouTube interviewer—but David made the experience a joy. He gave us an hour and a half of insight, stories, technical detail, and of course, a deep dive into his remote operating.

I hope you enjoy this month’s focus on remote radio—and that you also take time to watch the full episode (Episode 94) of [The DX Mentor](#) featuring our conversation.



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David, thank you for taking the time out of your busy day at the ARRL headquarters to do this interview. It's truly a pleasure to be able to talk to you, as NA2AA, the amateur radio operator and learn about your experiences. The interview today is about your involvement with remote radio. Let's start by hearing about how you got into amateur radio.

I actually found my way into amateur radio by way of being a bit of a troublemaker on CB. My father, wanting me to survive high school, figured that if I was going to be interested in radio, I ought to do it the right way — so he nudged me toward ham radio. That started with a Hallicrafters SX-101A receiver that needed work, and fortunately my advisor at school specialized in restoring old radios. He spent a couple of weeks bringing it back to life, and once I had received all 50 states, my father finally let me take the Novice test. From there, he and I built a transmitter together from a book he'd bought me called *From CB to Ham Beginner*. I ended up rock-bound on 3745, calling CQ morning, noon, and night, working whoever I could. That experience — the building, the operating, and the people I met along the way — turned into a lifelong love of the hobby and the remarkable community that comes with it.

What are your interests in the hobby? What excites you? Where do you put your focus?

Despite running ARRL and having a schedule that leaves very little time for personal operating, there are still a few parts of the hobby that absolutely light me up. The first is HF DXing — that's been a passion of mine since I was young. Even recently, while demonstrating the remote station in Bonaire for some of our staff, I was talked into trying 6-meters. I laughed and said nobody really DXs on 6, but I swung the beam toward Europe and suddenly there was an opening into Northwest Africa and Southwest Europe. In ten or fifteen minutes I had seven or eight countries in the log, and before long I was sitting at 54 countries on 6-meters from Bonaire. Moments like that remind me why I love this part of the hobby.

Contesting is another big focus. After years of heavy travel for work, I got back into it by reconnecting with old friends and operating from places like V26B in Antigua. That eventually led to teaming up with Noah, K2NG, and spending a lot of time contesting from his station in Bonaire. We met at superstation K2GL back in the 80's and hit it off immediately — same operating style, same competitive streak — and building that station and that friendship has been one of the real joys of my time in radio.

The other side of the hobby that excites me — the part I haven't had the time to fully dive back into — is satellites. I've done a lot of experimenting with antennas, activated rare grids, and even put Delaware on the satellites for operators who desperately needed it. Later, I was asked to activate Bonaire on the birds because it had never been on before, and every contact came back with "thanks for the all-time new one." That kind of excitement is contagious, and it's something I want to return to when life slows down a bit.

So even though my operating time is limited, the things that energize me haven't changed: HF DXing, contesting with good friends, and the thrill of satellite work. Those are the parts of amateur radio that still make my heart beat a little faster.

Here's the first controversial question of the day: what type of key do you prefer to use? Straight key? Bug? Paddle? Cootie?

When it comes to keys, I have to admit I still don't understand the cootie. I own one, but it remains a mystery to me. Most of my CW operating is either chasing DXpeditions or working friends in contests, so my go-to choice is the Begali Pearl. I've got a couple of them, and I move them between radios — they're far and away my favorite paddles.

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I also enjoy using a bug from time to time. I'll pull out my Vibroplex Anniversary model, which has an arm that lets mere mortals like me slow things down to around 20 wpm instead of racing along at 60. It makes bug work fun instead of frantic.

And of course, like a lot of hams, I started on a straight key. I spent so many hours pounding away on 40-meters as a kid that I was practically giving myself carpal tunnel. Eventually I graduated to a Heathkit electronic keyer — I think it was the HD-1410 — but that straight key beginning is still part of my DNA.

Before we delve in the guts of the remote radio configuration, I am intrigued with Bonaire, actually all of the ABC islands, and am curious how you settled on Bonaire for your DX remote station.



Bookcase displaying David's key collection in his office at ARRL.

I can't take any credit for choosing Bonaire — that was entirely Noah, K2NG. The story really starts decades earlier at K2GL in Tuxedo Park, New York, where many of us cut our contesting teeth. It was an extraordinary station built by Hazard Reeves, a Georgia Tech graduate and communications pioneer, with a Tudor mansion on the highest point in Tuxedo Park and a forest of towers. When Reeves passed away in 1986, he donated the entire station to Georgia Tech. Those of us who had operated there for years helped dismantle it so the equipment could be shipped south, and afterward a lot of us fell into a kind of contesting depression — it had been such a central part of our lives.

Noah stepped back from contesting for a while, even though he had an incredible station of his own in western New Jersey. Then he started taking scuba trips to Bonaire, always renting the same place with a little dock behind it. One year he brought down a Kenwood TS-830, an SB-220, and stuck a vertical on the end of the dock for a contest. The results blew his mind. The signals were unbelievable. He kept doing that for a couple of years until a nearby hurricane churned up the water and ripped the dock right off the house. With no place left to put an antenna, he decided it was time to build something permanent.

And Noah being Noah — resourceful, determined, and with a great engineering mind — he found land on what we now call "Radio Mountain" in Bonaire, an area already dotted with towers. (Figure 1.) He bought a parcel, secured a long-term lease on another, built a house, and created a station with an array of antennas that operators dream about. The vision, the site selection, the engineering — that's all Noah.

My part in the story begins when he invited me down. Operating from that station isn't cheap, and seat time is something you earn. But he trusted me with a chair in the 2012 CQ Worldwide Phone, and with a small team we won the world that year. Being invited to operate there — and being trusted to help put that station on the air — means a great deal to me.

So, while I've been going to Bonaire for years now, Noah deserves 100% of the credit for choosing the island, building the station, and creating the magic that happens on "Radio Mountain."

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There's a little secret about the ABC Islands — Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire — that the guys down there probably won't want me sharing: they're absolutely magical radio locations. I can't fully explain why, but the propagation to both Europe and the U.S. is spectacular. I thought I knew what a pileup sounded like after operating from Antigua, but Bonaire is on a completely different level. At one point, a ham in Japan messaged me begging for Bonaire on 12-meter RTTY. I'm not a RTTY guy, and Noah, K2NG, definitely isn't, but I fired up the K3 barefoot, tuned the C3 on the 90-foot tower, spotted myself, and suddenly we were taking up half the band. It was utter chaos — the good kind.

Beyond the radio magic, Bonaire itself is a special island. It's nothing like Aruba and only loosely like Curaçao. It has a fraction of the population, far less development, and the station site on the north end is surrounded by green space where we can put out temporary receiving antennas during contests. When the atmospheric conditions are quiet, those antennas are so good you'd swear the receiver is broken — no noise but you hear everything. That engineering, especially Noah's work on the transmit and receive systems, is a big part of why PJ4G and PJ4A routinely win their categories in major contests.

And despite going there since 2012, I've never once put my toes in the water. For me, Bonaire has always been about the radio — the propagation, the pileups, and the sheer thrill of operating from one of the best spots on Earth.

Can you describe for us what that station looks like, starting with when you pull up the driveway. What do we see on the outside, and then when we open the door, what do we see on the inside?

When you pull up the driveway on "Radio Mountain" in Bonaire, the first thing you see is the forest of antennas that defines the station. The original 60-foot tower stands closest to the house, topped with a long-boom tribander and an equally long-boom 6-meter Yagi. Behind it rises the 90-foot tower with a two-element 40-meter beam and a smaller tribander. Off to the side is a 160-foot commercial tower that carries the 160-meter inverted-V — the antenna that routinely earns Noah the reputation of being the loudest signal out of the Caribbean on Top Band. (Figure 2.) Scattered around the property are additional antennas: a fixed tribander aimed at South America, another to North America and Japan, a four-element 80-meter sloper array, and a compact WARC tower with antennas for 12, 17, and 30 as well as a multiplier antenna for 10, 15, and 20 meters. (Figure 3.) From above, the site looks like a purpose-built RF playground surrounded by green space.

Inside, the operating room reflects the same seriousness. During a contest, the station runs multiple positions: a run station and multiplier station on one band, another pair on a second band, and a third setup for band-opening checks or opportunistic mult hunting. It's a tightly choreographed environment where operators can "steal" a band when needed, and every screen, radio, and footswitch has its place. (Figure 4.)

Tucked just inside the door is the remote station — the part that makes it possible to operate PJ4 from thousands of miles away. The rack holds a Flex 6500 and a Flex 6700, a PGXL amplifier, three Green Heron rotor controllers, a HamPlus 2x12 antenna switch, lightning protection, and an LP-100 wattmeter. Above it sits the computer gear that ties everything together, along with a new Wi-Fi system layered on top of the older, don't-touch-it Linksys hardware that still runs part of the network. The Flex 6500 typically runs at 65 watts for reliability, while the 6700 provides redundancy and the ability for two operators to be on simultaneously. (Figure 5.) The next step is automated band-pass filter switching so the station can support more complex multi-radio operation.

Despite the scale of the station, the underlying philosophy is straightforward: standard station engineering, applied carefully. Lightning protection is handled with remote disconnect boxes that isolate the radios from the

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antenna switch when the station powers down. Some operators debate the logic, but with eleven antennas on site, replacing a switch is far more practical than buying eleven remote disconnect units. And so far, the approach has held up — no direct hits yet.

From the driveway to the operating desk, the station is unmistakably purpose-built: a blend of thoughtful engineering, contest-grade hardware, and the kind of antenna farm that only a place like Bonaire can truly justify.

Being a CW operator, there is a concern about latency, especially when operating with a key. The dependency to hear what one is sending in real-time is paramount. How have you handled that concern?

Latency is always on your mind when you're a CW operator, especially when you rely on hearing your own sending in real time.

The key is deciding *where* the digital work happens — at the radio site or at your operating position — because that choice determines how much latency you introduce. In our case, we actually run it both ways. We have WSJT-X installed on the remote PC in Bonaire, so you can operate FT8 by simply viewing and controlling the software running down there. That keeps latency extremely low because all the timing-critical work happens right next to the radio.

But you can also run WSJT-X locally on your laptop and feed it directly into the Flex over SmartSDR. Yes, there's a bit more latency that way, but it's not bad — certainly not enough to make the mode unusable. The real deciding factors are the quality of the internet connection on both ends and the path between them. Those determine whether it makes more sense to process everything at the radio or at your operating position.

So the short answer is: you manage latency by choosing where the intelligence lives. Put the timing-critical software at the radio when you need the lowest delay, or run it locally if the connection can handle it. Both approaches work — you just match the method to the conditions. Latency is going to be a bad thing or a manageable thing.

When it comes to CW, the key to avoiding latency is to stay out of the trap of listening to remote sidetone. Instead, I pop into CW mode, use the Flex CW terminal, and just type my call — it's effortless, and you avoid the roundtrip delay that makes real-time sending impossible. The moment you try to monitor your own audio coming back over the internet, it feels like doing EME. I learned that the hard way years ago at W2RE's station in Pawling, New York. We were running WPX Phone, and I reached over to turn on the monitor on a K3. The delay was so long it felt like the audio was bouncing off the moon. I had to shut it off immediately; it was completely unusable.

Latency is absolutely a factor in remote operating, but there are ways around it. Some operators have built clever USB or network-based CW interfaces that work with SmartSDR and behave more like a Maestro, smoothing out timing and reducing the feel of delay. I've used one for PTT with a footswitch during remote contesting, and there are newer versions that handle CW even more intelligently. I haven't tried the latest models yet, but they're on my list.

Most of my CW from Bonaire, though, is done through N1MM, where latency is far less of an issue. If you're ragchewing or sending by hand, that's a different story — you really do need low-latency sidetone. There are solutions that can get you down into the 50–70 ms range, which is usable as long as your internet path is clean. But for contesting and structured operating, avoiding remote sidetone altogether is the simplest and most reliable approach.

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What call sign is the Bonaire station? It seems like there may be more than one?

David: Well, the one that we use during phone contests has been Papa Japan 4 Germany. The one for the CW contest has been Papa Japan 4 Alpha.

So, David, I've got one more question for you. Between Bonaire and with your 6-meter station at K2NG, it sure seems like remote radio is a bit contagious for you. Are there any other locations or setups that you've got running that we don't know about, or are pondering?

Remote radio *is* contagious — I'll admit that. Bonaire and the dedicated 6-meter setup I have at K2NG in NJ (Figure 6 and Figure 7) have definitely fueled the bug. And yes, there's another location on my radar. I won't say exactly where yet, but it's in West Africa, and it has the potential to be a very interesting remote site. The challenge with any remote station, though, is that you absolutely must have someone local you can count on. You can control almost everything over the internet — power, antennas, rotators, even visual checks through cameras — but when something really goes wrong, you need a human being who can walk into the shack.

On Bonaire, we're fortunate. We have a station manager who can go over if anything looks off, and we've built in layers of redundancy. We even use remote cameras to check status lights and equipment health. And now that Starlink is finally allowed on the island, we're looking at adding it as a secondary path into the station, which will make the whole setup even more resilient.

Thinking about a West Africa station, the hardware wouldn't be complicated — a Flex, maybe an end-fed that covers 80 through 6 — but again, the key is having a trusted local partner. That's the make-or-break factor.

And I'll say this because it came up recently: remote operating isn't destroying DXCC. I had someone come unglued at me in Orlando over KP5 being a fully remote operation, insisting it undermined the program. It doesn't. Remote techniques are simply allowing activations of places that would otherwise never get on the air. That's good for the hobby, not bad. The KP5 team pioneered something important, and others will build on it.

Remote radio also opens doors for everyday hams. If you're in a condo with an Alex Loop in the window and you're thrilled to work France at -21, that's great — but if you want more, there *are* ways. Clubs can host remote stations. Friends can share access. With something as simple as an IC-7300, a PC, and RS-BA1, you can run a remote station that's far more capable than anything you can put next to a window.

And the magic is real. I recently watched a Northern California DX Club presentation where they showed a screenshot of an expedition working from Lord Howe Island. I froze the video, called my wife into the room, and said, "Look — that's me." One hundred watts and a wire, -24, working almost my antipode. That's the thrill remote radio makes possible.

When I look at the stuff that Otis did in on Desecheo with KP5/NP3VI...the software behind the scenes, and the stuff you guys are doing... there's a lot going on.

If you look at where amateur radio is heading, it's no surprise that systems like Node-RED have taken off. It was originally developed by IBM for industrial IoT — centralized control of sensors, relays, and automation — and it turns out that's exactly what a modern shack needs. At W1HQ here at headquarters, we run a Flex, and one of the younger guys in the lab has built an outstanding Node-RED flow for it. We got our start working with Dave, WO2X, who needed remote capability while recovering from surgery. He figured out how to run his Flex from an iPad so he wouldn't lose his mind watching daytime TV, and he became a real pioneer in this space.

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When John joined the team, he took Dave’s work even further.

Whether you’re dealing with Green Heron controllers, third-party relay boards, or software that wasn’t even designed for ham radio, the magic is in the integration — tying hardware and software together so you can control power, antennas, rotators, and switching from anywhere. But to build a reliable remote station, you also need a solid grasp of networking. That’s often the hardest part.

We’re not in the era of silver metal Heathkit boxes anymore. Today’s “kits” are combinations of commercial hardware, custom software, and clever engineering. And we’re fortunate that companies like Flex, Icom, and Elecraft pay attention to where the hobby is going. They’re building radios with the capabilities we need for this new style of operating — often staying a step ahead of us.

It’s an exciting time. Remote radio isn’t just possible; it’s becoming a natural extension of what modern amateur radio looks like.

David, thank you for sharing your story and experiences with remote radio. My offer stands...if you need someone to check on your Bonaire station, I’m your guy.

Well, I’ll tell you what, if you want to come... if you want to come down and operate sometime, you should pack up the family and move to Bonaire for a week. It’s really a fantastic place, and from a radio perspective, I just can’t describe how great it is operating from the island.

Shown below are various pictures of the Bonaire remote station equipment and antenna farm. Also shown is David’s 6-meter remote station in NY. All images are screen grabs shown by David in our Zoom session.

My sincere thank you to David Minster, NA2AA for his time and sharing details of his stations, and Bill Salyers, AJ8B, for his support and gracious takeover of *The DX Mentor*.



Figure 1.
Drone view of “Radio Mountain.”

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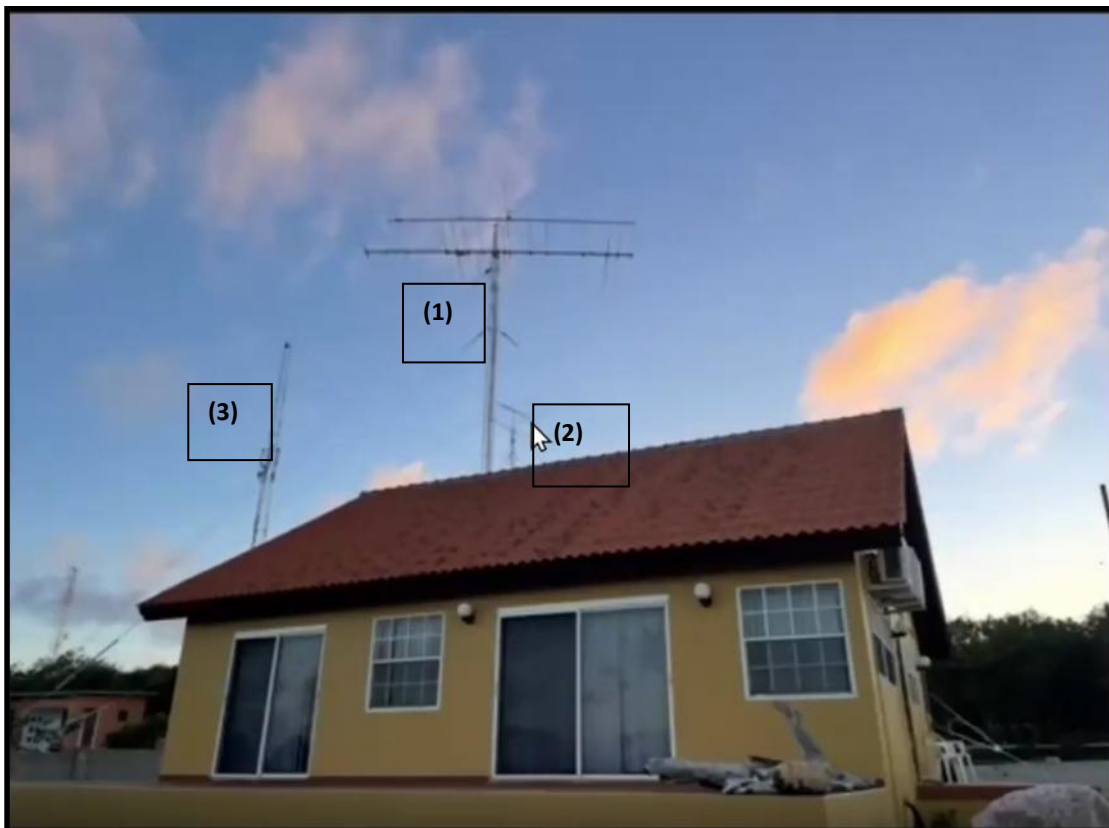


Figure 2. Bonaire. Station house. (1) 60-foot tower with long boom tribander and long boom 6-meter antennas. (2) 90-foot tower with 2-el 40m, 80m array, and tribander antennas. (3) 160-foot commercial tower with 160-meter inverted-vee.

PJ4A/PJ4G Antenna Farm

60-foot tower with a long-boom tri-bander and the long boom 6-meter antenna.

And a C3E at 30 feet fixed on South America.

90-foot tower. two-element 40 and a small tribander.

And a C19XR at 45 feet fixed on US/JA.

And a 4-element 80-meter sloper array.

And unused slopers are electrically given extra length so they act as a parasitic reflector.

160-foot large commercial tower that has our 160 meter inverted V.

WARC tower about 35 feet high with aWARC tribander for 12-17-30.

And a C3E for a mult station for CQ Worldwide

Satellite antennas on ground-mounted tripod with two Arrow 2m/70cm antennas

Homebrew PVC cross arm and circular polarization relays

Yaesu az-el rotator

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Figure 3. WARC tower @ 35 feet



David's satellite antennas



Figure 4.
Bonaire contest station.

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Figure 5.

Remote station:

Flex 6500

Flex 6700

PGXL amplifier

3 Green Heron rotor controllers

2x12 switch

Lighting protection

LP 100 - Watt meter

Computer

Wi-Fi device

Linksys router (for older equipment)



Left: This remote IC-7300 is located at K2NG to finish 6-Band WAS from FN20. It's dedicated to FT8-only. 6-meter only activity.

Win4Yaesu interface. Mumble audio transfer.

Right: 6-meter Yagi in the middle of the tower orient-ed due West



QRV: CWops DX

[Bill Salyers, AJ8B](#)

This month, our guest is **George Allison, K1IG** (CWops #2396) a frequent speaker to DX Clubs regarding LoTW.

You are the most knowledgeable person I know when it comes to LoTW. Where did you acquire the experience?

Like many hams I had some initial frustration with LoTW. For example, why doesn't a confirmed contact show up when I query "Your QSOs" but it does show up when I query "Awards?" Using some engineering analysis, I drew several block diagrams of the confirmation processes and determined that there are three (at least) databases that interface in specific ways. Getting this straight in my head as well as seeing how other tools (e.g., GridTracker, MacLoggerDX, and other loggers) made LoTW much easier to use and even raised my DXCC scores. I now used these block diagrams in LoTW presentations that I give to local clubs. The reason that confirmed contacts may not show up in a "Your QSOs" query is that the confirmation came via a QSL card and not electronically; card confirmations only appear in "Awards" queries.



George Allison, K1IG

I should mention that we crossed paths when I asked you to do a presentation to our local DX club. You have a current presentation titled "LoTW Under The Hood." It was one of the most popular presentations we have had in several years.

Thanks. I break down LoTW into 3 databases and describe the relationship between the three. I can always see the "lights go on" when this approach works.

What are a couple of takeaways that those who go through your presentation come away with?

I think there are two. The first is that, although the tQSL process seems to be overly complex, it isn't and there is a need for a level of sophistication that supports the integrity of the system. Secondly, you don't have to be a league member to upload to LoTW. I try to get everyone to use it as it greatly benefits those of us who do use LoTW.

You are CWops member #2396. Who got you into CWops?

After college, I had a long career in the Navy and couldn't operate much because of constant travel and shipboard living. After retirement, I resolved to get serious about this hobby. I set up a station (as much as possible in my condo), and got active, mainly on SSB and digital (RTTY and PSK), and even made a few CW contacts but didn't progress beyond hand-key speeds. I was thinking about joining SKCC, but rather fortuitously I was contacted by an old friend, Steve, WB7DND (CWops #2169), from college who had not been a ham when I knew him but got licensed several years after graduating. He had attended CW academy and was adamant that I had to join CWops and up my game.

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Did CWops have a major impact on your love of CW?

Totally. Experience in the CWTs and even using the CWops curriculum for training classes in my club has measurably increased my operating confidence and ability.

I should tell you about my first CW contact. After I was licensed as a teenager, I got a used Heath-kit transmitter and tried for weeks to make a contact, calling CQ and answering others without success. Knowing more about antennas would have helped, but nonetheless I kept trying. Finally, one night I got an answer to a CQ and in the excitement immediately forgot everything about CW; all I heard was dots and dashes which I wrote down and then tried to interpret.

The next day I figured out what the other ham was actually sending. After his name and RST, he sent: "SOLID COPY, BACK TO YOU." That was not, however, what I interpreted. What I saw on the paper was: "SO LID COPY?" and then a word kind of like BACK (it has four letters and ends in CK) "TO YOU." I knew this was my first contact but I couldn't believe he was announcing to the world that I was a lid. My parents were watching and wanted to know what he had sent; I just said I lost him in the noise.

My CW skill did improve slowly after that. After getting involved with the high school radio club and meeting some experienced hams I learned how to make contacts, although I didn't improve much beyond a hand key until I joined CWops.

If you participate in the CWTs, did they help you when it came time to hit the CW portion of the DXpeditions you have been on or pileups you have been involved in?

It's not just the "CW portion," but my ability to work stations in all modes has improved. I've gone from straining at 20 wpm to "loafing along" at thirty. The expertise in making contacts in CW has been accompanied by increased station optimization, ergonomics improvements, tools expertise (e.g., spotter nets, RBNs, prop charts), QSO-making finesse, "ear training," and most of all, increased operating confidence in all modes. These improvements have all contributed to a much more enjoyable radio experience.

How has CW helped or enhanced your desire to work DX?

In the last answer I mentioned "ear training," and by that I mean being able to apply enhancements like RIT, bandwidth filters, noise blankers, and notch filters in my head rather than through rig controls (The rig controls can still help, but I don't need them as much). Pulling weak signals out of the mud is much easier when my head is doing it rather than having to fiddle with rig controls. Frequent practice in the CWTs has definitely improved my head!

What would you tell a ham who is considering learning CW?

First I tell them that they're missing one third of the fun, much of the bandwidth, and most of all the satisfaction that comes from achieving a skill that is a foundation of our hobby. When non-CW hams listen to the CW bands (especially during a contest), they are understandably intimidated; the high speed of the contacts scares them from taking the first steps of learning.

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An introductory class in CW where they learn to recognize their own call sign and the numbers can open the door to successful contesting and DX-ing. I've taught a CW class in my club that focused on Field Day contacts; at Field Day we put the graduates in the CW station with mentors and got them on the air.

Do you have any other comments about CW or CWops?

CW operating and training has changed a lot since I was first licensed. I think CW is as popular as it was when I started, but a welcome change is that people are learning it because they want to, and not because they have to. Many learned CW as a chore and a hurdle to overcome to get licensed and then never used it after passing the license test. The CW-oriented groups such as CWops, SKCC, LICW, and even POTA operations are improving CW expertise and advertising this skill as a fun and enriching experience.

The emphasis in training now is comprehension and "head copy" rather than mechanically writing it down letter by letter, and I think people are surprised by how quickly they can develop the skill when it is properly taught.

Many hams I talk to think that CW is a skill that they could never learn. Just as I was brought into CWops by my friend Steve, a personal invitation by CWops members to their friends along with some demonstrations can be the key to unlock the door to very rewarding experiences.

Lord Howe Island

June 1 - 14, 2026

Team Leader: Chris Chapman, VK3QB (CWops #2949)

Team: 7 operators - KØBBC, VK3QB, VK3HJ, VK6CQ, VK2PN, VK5BJ, and VK5XDX.

FlexRadio is supporting this activation with the provision of two Aurora 520M radios. Each 520M integrates a 500-Watt transceiver, power supply, full SDR transceiver, automatic antenna tuner, and 7-pole filtering into a single 8.5 kg unit.

We'll also be using a DX-Commander Expedition vertical antenna; easy to transport and fast to deploy.

Our focus will be on 40-metres through 10-metres on CW, FT8 and SSB (no 6-metres and no 160-metres). We will be very active and structure our schedule around propagation openings and demand.

Note: The Australian regulator changed the callsign allocation for Lord Howe Island from VK9 to VK2 (effective date 19 February 2024). Lord Howe Island remains its own DXCC entity and is rec-



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ognised by most logging programs and awards programs as VK9L. So, when you log VJ2L, check that it is recorded as DXCC VK9L

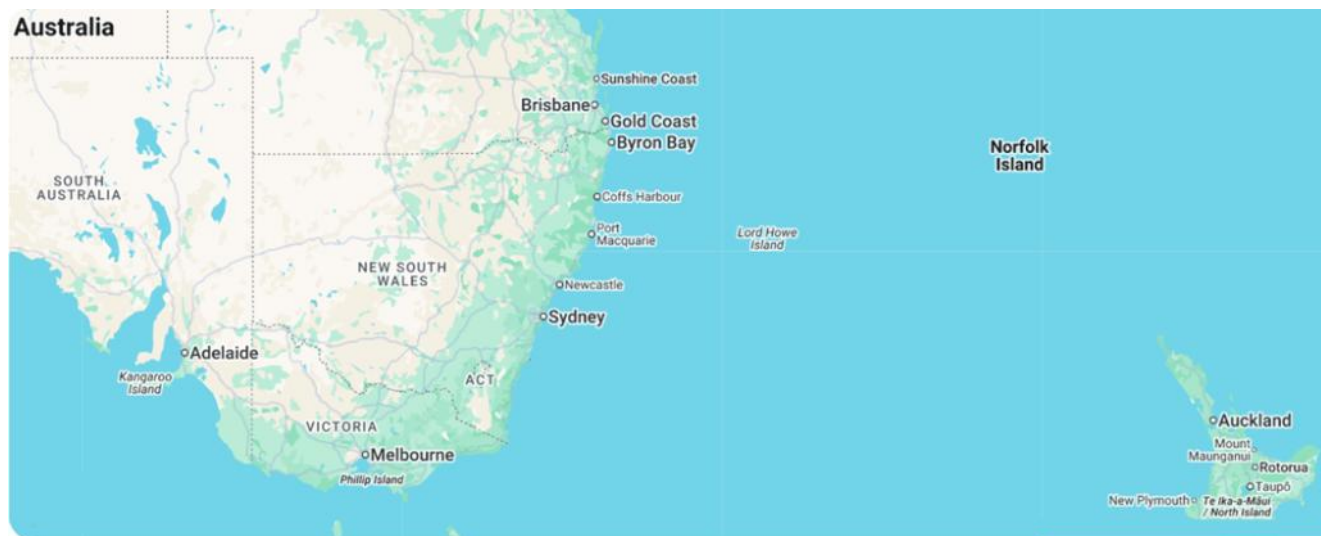
MØOXO will be looking after QSL services. www.m0oxo.com

In what we believe is a first, the VJ2L team will be providing **award plaques** for the following:

- First past the post – the first CW operator to work us on all bands CW – sponsored by CWops Oceania
- First past the post – all bands - FT8
- First past the post – all bands - SSB
- 1,000 miles/Watt Award – first past the post CW
- Certificates for all who achieve 1,000 miles/Watt award

More details about these awards will be provided on the VJ2L QRZ.com page.

Team leader, Chris, VK3QB, may be contacted via his QRZ.com details.



SC

CW Open – September 5, 2026

The session times will be as follows:

Session 1: 00:00 UTC, Sept 5

Session 2: 12:00 UTC, Sept 5

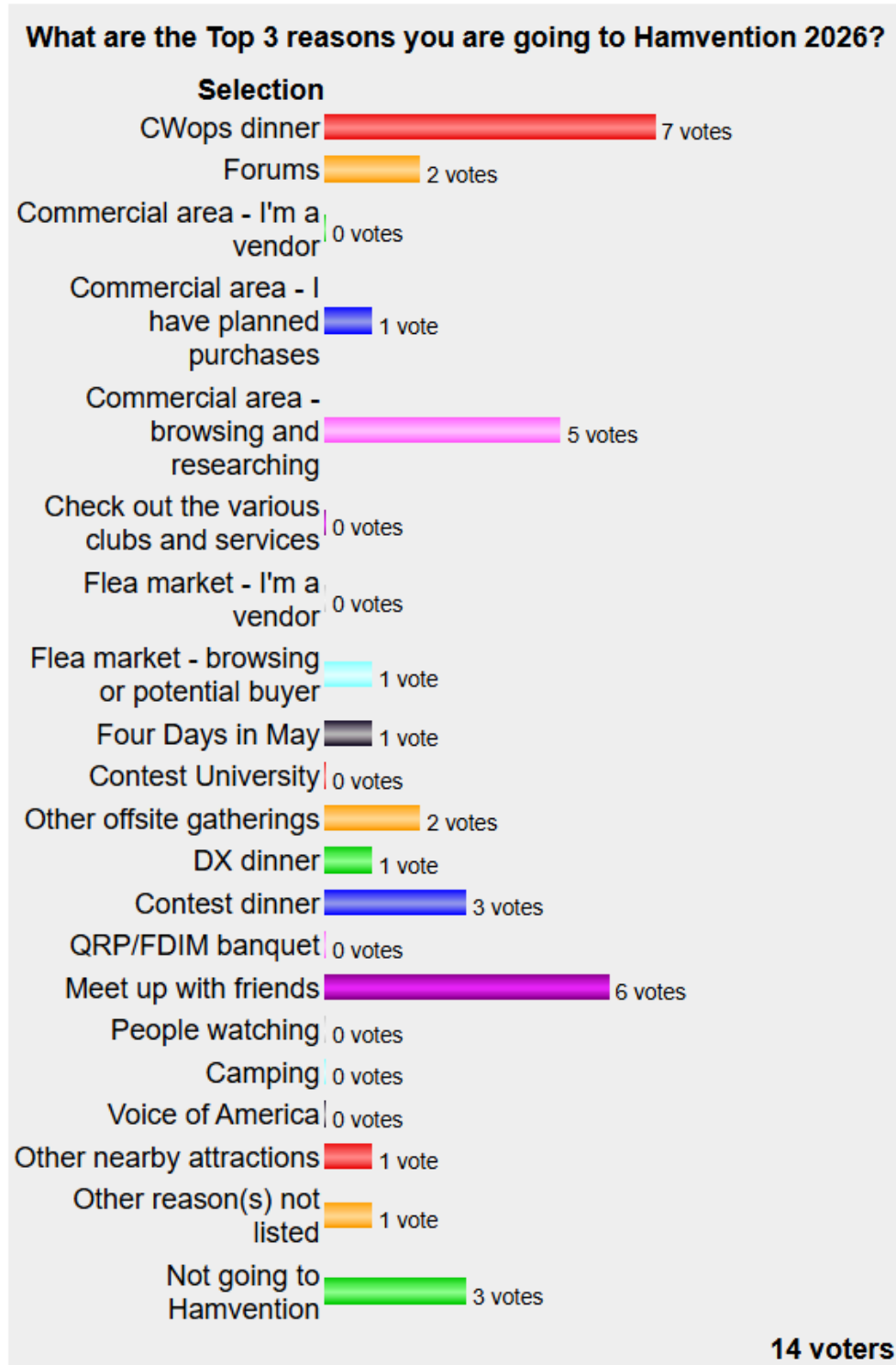
Session 3: 20:00 UTC, Sept 5



Keyed Up

(No Poll This Month)

Last Month's Poll



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SOAPBOX

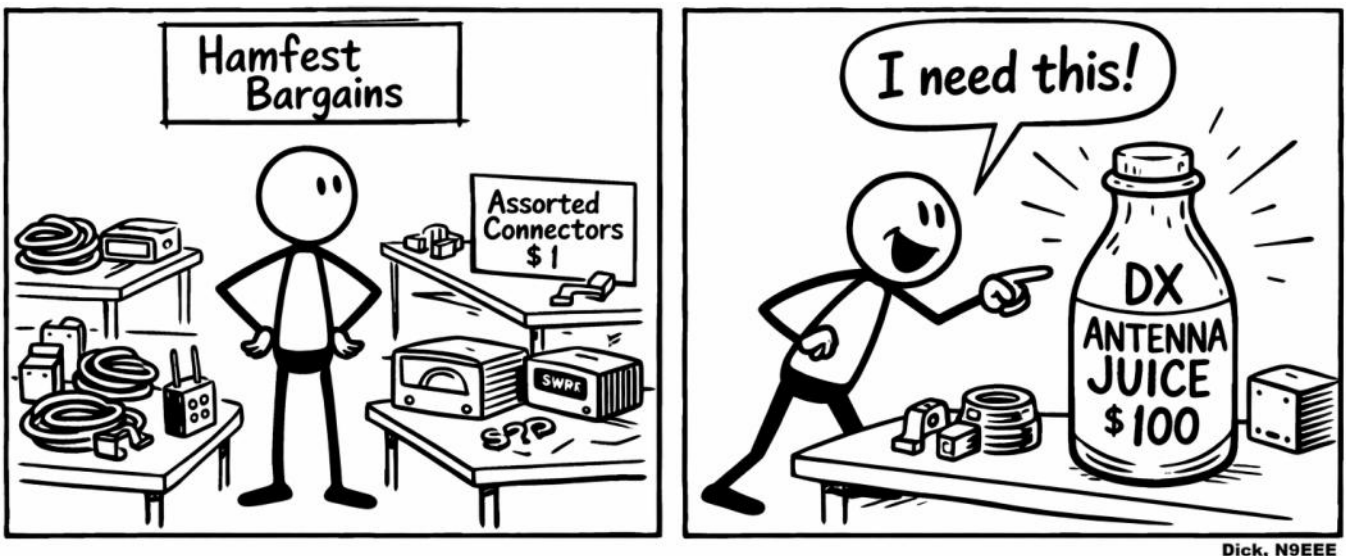
Gary AF8A #2092 I belong to the HamSCI citizen science organization. I set up our booth, help staff it all 3 days, plus give a Forum talk. I enjoy talking to people about science!

Ed, AJ6V #3614 This will be my first time attending the Dayton Hamvention. I'm looking forward to meet a lot of people that I've worked dozens of time on the air, but have never met in person.

Dick, N9EEE #3113 I could probably select 10 choices. A nice problem to have.

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>
3928	K0LB*	Larry	3931	VU2TUM*	Puneit	3934	K1KIG*	Kiki
3929	OK2PWX*	Jarek	3932	M0GEJ	Chloë	3935	DF3VM*	Mike
3930	W0EAS	Eric	3933	SM5ILE*	Totte	3936	KO4LBS*	Lori

* Lifetime member

As of May 7, 2026:

Need Sponsors: SA4ZAB, M5LGM, W4PIC, W2GR

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

SC

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 April 2026 results (GB hosts are shown in **bold**):

GW2CWO	G0AOE EU1TN EI5KJ	OE5ESR DL8NGC OE5MKE	IC8FBU RL1W	RA8AT HB9BMD	LY3I 4O3RB	HB9DAX DL4YHF	G0FGE F6IVT
JG1UQD	JK1WCW JL1ING	JS2TGK(3) JQ3FRX	YJ8CW JF3WGG	JG1BGT JJ0SFV	JH5ASR	JL1DZP	JF2EVE
JJ1FXF	JK1WCW J11PBj	JS2TGK(5) UA0LOU	JL2SQK BD4Oj	JL7VFI JM8SMO	JE8LRI JF3WGG	JJ0SFV VK3XU	JA4Iij JK1JAV
JK1QYL	JK1WCW(2) JL1ING(2) JA4Iij	JS2TGK(12) JR9VNI JN3HYM	JG1BGT(4) JL1FYL VK2RU	JJ0XEQ JF3WGG JO1MXR	JH0NFJ(3) 7N1OEX(2)	J11CJJ JH2UNG	JJ0SFV(2) JK1WCW
JM4AOA	JA2MEI JR2GAG	JA7OXI JS2TGK(2)	JE3DXP	JF3WGG	JF6IUL	JN3HYM(2)	JH0NFJ
JO1DGE	HL1MIM JS3MQC/3	JA7EVF/1	JG1BGT	JG5VIA	JH0NFJ (2)	JS2TGK (3)	JJ0SFV
JQ3FRX	JK1WCW JJ0SFV	JN1FAO JF3WGG	JF1LXO	JS2TGK	N6TI	7N2XZB	JG1UQD
K1DW	K7RQ AA9MU	AJ9M K9QAG	VE2PID/W8	KK4GFR	N4QYO	NZ0T	KR4ANA
K7NJ	WA6SWM VE7TL/M	NA7C	W4EDE	K6ZGN	K7GIO	KF6FO	AE2W
K8UDH	KD0QV	W7KPL	KJ5JUF	KR4ANA			
KV8Q	K4EWG						
M0WDD	DF3BS M0ISZ	EA1CKO M0IYP	G3MCK M7GNO	G4GON PB7TT	G4JRP RT1B	G4ZHZ YL3JD	HB9APJ
W5DT	WB2SZJ	KI5OEZ	KA9S				
W8OV	K4EWG	KI4EGH					
7J1ATG	JS2TGK						

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7L2VPL	JS2TGK HL1MIM HL5JZ	JS1CII JG1BGT JA4IJ	J17KNV JJØSFV JK1WCW	J11CJJ JS2TGK JHØNFJ	BH4HKZ JG1BGT JE1FMZ	UAØDF JS2TGK JF3TBK	KA6BIM BG25E
7N2XZB (2)	JQ6EQD JR4CXE JA2MEI JL1DZP	JJØXEQ JF1LXO JK1WCW	JS2TGK(5) JJØSFV JF3TBK	JA4IJ(3) DS4OMS JRØKTF	BG2HE BI4JCR JS3MQC	JHØNFJ(3) K8IA BH5ELC	HL1MIM JK1PWT JA7MBT

Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local

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

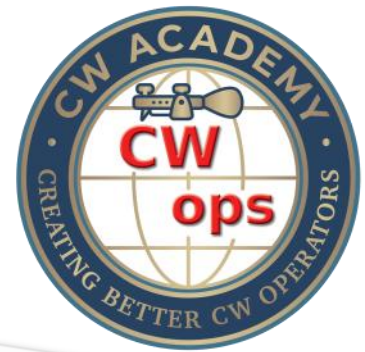
Frequencies: 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539, 14.035 - 14.039 MHz | JA - 7.028 +/-

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	W8OV			
	JG1GBT											
TUE												
	7N2XZB	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	JR1WYW											
WED												
	7J1ATG							N8DD			N7DZ	
THURS												
	7N2XZB			SV2BBK				KV8Q		K7NJ		
	JG1BGT											
	JQ3FRX											
FRI												
	JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO					K6RB	
						MØWDD						
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA JG1UQD											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
	7L1VPL											



CW Academy

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



CW Academy Awarded RSGB's Prestigious Calcutta Key

At the Radio Society of Great Britain's Annual General Meeting, held on April 18, 2026, CW Academy was awarded the prestigious Calcutta Key — a signal honor and a proud moment for the entire CWops community.

The Calcutta Key is one of the RSGB's most distinguished awards, presented by the RSGB Board at its Annual General Meeting to individuals or organizations in recognition of outstanding contributions to amateur radio. It is given with particular emphasis on service that advances the amateur radio community and fosters international goodwill. Unlike most RSGB trophies, the Calcutta Key holds a singular place among the Society's awards and is retained by the RSGB itself as a mark of its exceptional prestige. Recipients represent the very highest standard of dedication to amateur radio and to the values the RSGB upholds.

This honor reflects the remarkable achievements of CW Academy's volunteer community — hundreds of dedicated advisors who have taught nearly 2,000 classes to more than 7,000 students worldwide. Their countless hours of selfless service have made an enduring impact on the art of Morse code and on the operators who practice it. CW Academy proudly salutes these extraordinary volunteers who have devoted themselves to "creating better CW operators."



Facilitated by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE, Beginner Level Advisor, CWA Spring Break was an 8-week program of weekly group practice sessions designed for Beginner Level graduates to bridge the gap between the Jan/Feb and May/Jun CWA sessions.

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Its purpose was simple: preserve the hard-earned skills of copying and sending Morse code, sustain the momentum of daily practice, and ensure students arrived at Fundamental Level ready to succeed.

Because Beginner graduates arrive with a wide range of proficiencies, the sessions naturally included some unplanned coaching—both from me (at their request) and from the positive peer pressure that emerges in any motivated group.

Now that CWA Spring Break has wrapped up, here are the key insights that surfaced during the 8-week run:

- a)** we met on Mondays at 1900 UTC. A Daily Practice Regimen was offered and highly encouraged. Weekly successes were volunteered.
- b)** Zoom was used for conversation and instruction; VBand handled sending and sharing Morse code.
- c)** The group regularly split into Zoom breakout rooms and VBand channels for focused practice.
- d)** Of the 21 who registered, 3 withdrew early after realizing they were not ready to have graduated, and 3 were no-shows. We began with 15 active participants; dropped to 8 by the last couple of weeks.
- e)** Beginner graduates did not arrive with uniform proficiency:
 - about half were inexperienced with ICR
 - about half were inexperienced with head copy
 - about half struggled with copying words

About half had difficulty with character formation (*These were not the same students across categories.*)

f) Early on, we discovered a significant disconnect between the Beginner Level sending standard of 15/6 and the Fundamental Level expectation of 25/6. Given what Beginners must learn in their first 8 weeks, 25/6 is not a realistic starting point. At both levels, the priority should be character formation and spacing—not speed—until sending is consistently clean. To help them progress, I created a graduated readiness plan to move them from 15/6 toward 25/6.

g) Although I emphasized that I was facilitating rather than coaching, students consistently sought guidance—individually and in groups—for skill development. I was happy to support them.

h) Practice sessions focused on word-building and sentence-building. During copying, students worked on ICR and head copy; during sending, they concentrated on character formation and spacing. To keep energy high, I gamified many of the exercises.

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i) Participants were uniformly grateful for the experience, reinforcing that these “gap” practice sessions meet a real need.

1 In summary, CWA Spring Break served two primary goals:

1. Maintain the skills gained in Beginner Level, and
2. Prepare students for Fundamental Level, including targeted skill development where needed.

The old saying “a rising tide lifts all boats” played out week after week. The group gelled, supported one another, and even created their own WhatsApp group to stay connected. Several participants have since shared that the experience was not only valuable but, in some cases, transformative.

Mine was not the only organized practice session running during this period, and it became clear that these offerings fill a genuine need within the broader CW Academy program. Regardless of how they are structured, if participants are engaged, supported, and finding real value, then these sessions should become a consistent element of the curriculum.

The next natural opportunity is the “Summer Vacation” gap between July and September—a perfect window to continue strengthening skills, confidence, and community before the Fall session begins.

Suggestion:

Program materials currently present a mismatch between Beginner Level graduation sending speed (15/6) and the Fundamental Level starting expectation (25/6). Based on what these students demonstrated, 25/6 is not realistic at this stage of their journey, but 20/6 is absolutely attainable with proper guidance.

I wish each of them success as they enter Fundamental Level and continue their growth. They are eager learners, motivated operators, and a pleasure to support.

Dick Strassburger, N9EEE, Beginner Level Advisor

Advisor Knowledge Sharing: A New Resource for CW Academy

Chris Chapman VK3QB, with invaluable assistance from Buz Tarlow AC6AC, has launched an exciting initiative to build an official repository of information, best practices, and guides for CW Academy advisors. While many advisors have contributed helpful material through the CWA Advisors groups.io page and various resources on CWops.org, a wealth of knowledge and hard-won experience remains scattered across individual advisors' own computers — largely untapped and unshared.

Chris and Buz are changing that. Their new **Advisor Knowledge Sharing** program, now available on the Advisor Portal, invites advisors to share their expertise by responding to a structured set



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of questions across several key categories. The team is also testing an enhancement that will allow advisors to upload documents directly, which will be indexed in a curated, searchable repository.

The benefits extend to advisors at every stage of their journey. New advisors will gain access to the practical wisdom that seasoned advisors have developed over years in the classroom, while experienced advisors will find fresh ideas and approaches from their peers. Advisor Knowledge Sharing promises to become an invaluable resource for the entire CW Academy community — and a fitting tribute to the generosity and dedication that define our advisor corps.

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 Co-Admin

SC

CW Academy

Session Dates

January / February

May / June

September / October

Learning Levels

Beginner

Fundamental

Intermediate

Advanced



CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

Recently there have been a few scores submitted using the wrong submittal form. Usually the only submittal forms open at 3830scores.com are those for the most recent (or immediately upcoming) CWTs, but occasionally there are submittal forms available for more than one week's worth of CWTs: the current set in the top part of the left-hand menu, called "Current Contests", and one or more older sets lower down, in the part called "Recent Contests". When this happens, you need to take care to use the correct (Current) set.

If you use the wrong submittal form, your score will not appear in the current summary for the contest. If you notice that your score is missing and resubmit using the correct form, that will result in two postings for the same score under different dates. I can tell which one is correct by looking for the one that was posted more than a week after the start time for the form it was posted under, and once I have determined that it is a duplicate posting, I will remove it from my list. However, unless you have taken action to correct the score, it will still be in both summaries at 3830scores.com. By taking care to use the correct form you can save me the time taken to diagnose and correct the duplication, and both of us the time later on in the year explaining why the toplist.txt file does not agree with the number of postings in the summaries at 3830scores.com.

Another thing you can help with is to make sure that the call sign(s) you use in the submittal form are entered in the correct place(s) and spelled correctly. Every so often I see a fat-fingered call sign with extraneous characters or with a prefix that is impossible for your country (M2 instead of N2 for a US call sign, for example). This wastes my time figuring out how to correct the typo. An easy way to reduce the likelihood of such typos is to use the Preferences menu item at 3803scores.com to enter your information once and for all so that it will be filled in automatically every time you submit a score instead of requiring you to type it in each time:

Home **Preferences** Contest Summaries Activity Trackers List Posts Updates/FAQ

Submittal Forms **Score Form Preferences**

Current Contests

7th Call Area QSO Party

A1CLUB AWT - May 6

ARI International DX Contest

CWops Test (CWT) - 1300Z May 6

CWops Test (CWT) - 1900Z May 6

CWops Test (CWT) - 0300Z May 7

CWops Test (CWT) - 0700Z May 7

If you would like selected fields in the score reporting forms to default to the same information for every contest, enter that information in the form below. You can choose to use default values for one or more of the fields below.

Please note that this default information will be stored in a *cookie* on the computer you're currently using. Therefore, you must have enabled *cookies* to save this information and you will need to repeat the process on each computer you use for submitting your scores.

E-mail Address Send copy to this address

Call Used

Station Call

QTH

Club

Comments (rig and/or antenna description, etc., maximum of 1000 characters)

Another problem results from a submittal for a special event operation in which the operator's home call sign is not included, making me hunt for clues about which operator to credit the participation point to.

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When you operate using a special event call sign, a club call sign or a special contest call sign, please enter your home call sign (the one that is registered in the CWops Membership Roster) in the box for the operator's call (the added red oval in the screenshot below):

Home Preferences Contest Summaries Activity Trackers List Posts Updates/FAQ

Submittal Forms **CWops Test (CWT) - 1300Z May 6**

Current Contests

7th Call Area QSO Party

A1CLUB AWT - May 6

ARI International DX Contest

CWops Test (CWT) - 1300Z May 6

CWops Test (CWT) - 1900Z May 6

CWops Test (CWT) - 0300Z May 7

CWops Test (CWT) - 0700Z May 7

Delaware QSO Party

Indiana QSO Party

Use this form to submit your CWops Test (CWT) - 1300Z May 6 score in a standardized format to the 3830scores.com database that allows the results to be automatically summarized. Items in red and marked with a * are required. Separate multiple operator call signs with a comma or space.

Please remember that submitting this form does not take the place of submitting your log to the contest sponsor.

Submit logs by: May 9, 2026
E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail to: (none)
Find rules at:
<https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>
Log/rules info courtesy of WA7BNM Contest Calendar.

New Submission Correct Previous Submission

Submitter's E-mail Address* Send copy to this e-mail address.

Call Used* Operator(s) Call(s)

Station Call

Class* Power* Check all that apply: SO2R 2BSIQ Remote operation

Op Time (hrs) QTH Club

The operator's call is not one of the ones that is entered automatically from the Preferences settings, so you will have to add it on those occasions when you use a call sign other than your own.

A bit of time spent at 3830scores.com can save me a bunch of effort trying to correct a typo or remove a duplicated score. Thank you for helping out this way.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager

2026 CWops Test (CWT) Schedule

Wednesdays at 1300 - 1400z and 1900 - 2000z. Thursdays at 0300 - 0400z and 0700 - 0800z.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Week 1	1	4-5	4-5	1-2	7-8	3-4	1-2	5-6	2-3	1	4-5	2-3
Week 2	7-8	11-12	11-12	8-9	13-14	10-11	8-9	12-13	9-10	7-8	11-12	9-10
Week 3	14-15	18-19	18-19	15-16	20-21	17-18	15-16	19-20	16-17	14-15	18-19	16-17
Week 4	21-22	25-26	25-26	22-23	27-28	24-25	22-23	26-27	23-24	21-22	25-26	23-24
Week 5	28-29			29-30			29-30		30	28-29		30-31



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)



Monthly Update

During April, four additional members submitted logs, increasing the number of active participants in the awards program to 201.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of April 2026 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 233 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) K3WW, (5) N5RZ, (6) KO4VW, (7) NA8V, (8) K7QA, (9) WT9U** and **(10) N7US**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 516 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of April 2026 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 258 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) K3WW, (4) N5RZ, (5) KY4GS, (6) KC7V, (7) OM2VL, (8) K7QA, (9) KO4VW** and **(10) NA8V**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1401 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of April 2026 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3562 QSOs. The top ten CMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) K3WW, (3) KR2Q, (4) N5RZ, (5) N5ZO, (6) DL6KVA, (7) NA8V, (8) F6HKA, (9) OM2VL** and **(10) VE3KI**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 7043 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more **DXCC** entities increased to 103 with the addition of **EA6EJ**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops **WAS** remained at **291** this month.

You can see complete rankings for all award categories at <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/scores>.

CWops Award Tools Participation

At the end of 2025 we had 297 active participants in the Member Awards Program. As of May 1, 2026, we have 201 active participants. If you have not submitted any logs for the Awards Program, please submit them so we can include your scores 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 2025 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 May 1, 2026.

ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1489
2	AA3B	1256
3	KY4GS	1212
4	K3WW	1132
5	N5RZ	1057
6	KO4VW	1036
7	NA8V	1009
8	K7QA	988
9	WT9U	974
10	N7US	973
11	KC7V	955
12	OM2VL	953
13	W4CMG	933
14	KG9X	924
15	F6HKA	908
16	K1AJ	876
17	W8FN	872
18	N5TJ	853
19	NA4J	795
20	AA2IL	778
21	K3QP	773
22	N5KD	761
23	EA6EJ	760
24	K9WX	747
25	KT5V	733
26	K6NR	731
27	KM4FO	705
28	VE3TM	703
29	DL6KVA	699
30	KW1X	692
31	KC3M	687
32	K1VUT	675
33	VK2GR	659
34	WN7S	646
35	NJ3K	644
36	W4WF	631
37	K3JT	628
38	W0UO	619
38	WS7L	619
39	N2UU	611
40	K3ZA	599
41	KW7Q	598
42	K1SM	582

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	3808
2	KR2Q	3550
3	K3WW	3142
4	N5RZ	2924
5	KY4GS	2820
6	KC7V	2569
7	OM2VL	2479
8	K7QA	2419
9	KO4VW	2410
10	NA8V	2407
11	WT9U	2274
12	N7US	2100
13	KG9X	2086
14	W4CMG	1974
15	K1AJ	1923
16	F6HKA	1834
17	N5TJ	1783
18	W8FN	1720
19	EA6EJ	1665
20	NA4J	1623
21	DL6KVA	1541
22	K6NR	1486
23	AA2IL	1453
24	K1VUT	1418
25	K9WX	1401
26	N5KD	1367
27	WS7L	1356
28	KC3M	1296
29	N2UU	1293
30	KM4FO	1277
31	KW7Q	1269
32	N5XE	1256
33	KT5V	1220
34	W0UO	1214
35	KW1X	1186
36	VE3TM	1185
37	W0VX	1138
38	K3QP	1127
38	W5AL	1127
39	VK2GR	1122
40	WN7S	1118
41	W4WF	1109
42	K3JT	1095

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	15445
2	K3WW	11883
3	KR2Q	11032
4	N5RZ	11025
5	N5ZO	10698
6	DL6KVA	10521
7	NA8V	10065
8	F6HKA	9554
9	OM2VL	8659
10	VE3KI	8402
11	KG9X	8272
12	KC7V	8253
13	K7QA	8249
14	N7US	8104
15	N5AW	7732
16	W9ILY	7682
17	WT9U	7588
18	KY4GS	7371
19	K1VUT	7244
20	W0VX	7185
21	K3JT	7040
22	N5TJ	6945
23	K9WX	6909
24	K6NR	6560
25	W4WF	6520
26	N1DC	6324
27	SM6CUK	6312
28	WT3K	6261
29	N2UU	6256
30	WN7S	6156
31	K4IU	6121
32	KO4VW	6071
33	W8FN	5958
34	AA5JF	5815
35	9A1AA	5793
36	VE3TM	5692
37	W0UO	5657
38	NJ3K	5573
39	G4BUE	5570
40	AC6ZM	5544
41	NA4J	5484
42	K1SM	5470
43	K1AJ	5438

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ACA

42	N5XE	582
43	K1TR	581
44	W5AL	569
45	NE2V	557
46	DF7TV	556
47	F5SGI	544
47	W9CF	544
48	SM6CUK	542
49	AA5JF	541
50	K4TZ	526
51	VE9KK	519
52	W0VX	517
53	EA3NO	510
54	VE3KI	509
55	K4IU	507
56	KV8Q	506
57	N1DC	496
58	N3CKI	489
59	VE3KIU	487
60	EA6BF	485
61	N5ER	471
62	KR3E	466
63	NE5A	461
63	WA4JUK	461
64	W6AYC	455
65	N2EIM	454
66	W9ILY	437
67	KB8GAE	426
68	WU6P	425
69	K4GM	423
70	K9CW	420
71	N5ZO	414
72	W2VM	404
73	HB9ARF	403
74	AF5J	402
75	K1RF	401
76	M0RYB	393
77	W7LG	387
78	DJ5CW	383
79	W0TG	371
80	KE4CR	364
81	KM4JEG	361
82	WM4Q	360
83	SP4JFR	341
84	W3WHK	339
85	WE4AUB	336
86	KC3MAL	334
87	W8EWH	332
88	WA5RML	330

ACMA

43	SM6CUK	1091
44	W9CF	1076
45	K1TR	1039
46	NJ3K	1035
47	K3ZA	1015
48	EA6BF	1007
49	AA5JF	1002
50	K4IU	980
51	F5SGI	944
52	NE2V	932
53	K1SM	897
54	N5ER	894
55	K4TZ	871
55	VE3KI	871
56	DF7TV	870
57	VE3KIU	861
58	VE9KK	849
59	K9CW	814
60	KV8Q	802
61	AF5J	796
62	EA3NO	791
63	W6AYC	783
64	W0TG	782
65	N3CKI	767
66	DJ5CW	758
67	WU6P	753
68	WS1L	750
69	N1DC	748
70	M0RYB	744
71	W9ILY	734
72	K1RF	706
73	K4GM	693
74	KR3E	679
75	WA4JUK	643
76	WA5RML	639
77	WM4Q	635
78	PA2TA	633
79	N5ZO	632
80	KC3MAL	629
81	NE5A	617
82	W2VM	614
83	G3NKC	608
84	HB9ARF	594
85	W7LG	590
86	KB8GAE	571
86	KM4JEG	571
87	LY2MM	563
88	W3WHK	557
89	W8EWH	555

CMA

44	N5XE	5387
45	AA2IL	5371
46	GW0ETF	5298
47	KT5V	5038
48	WS7L	5033
49	F6JOE	4992
50	K3QP	4984
51	VK2GR	4968
52	WA4JUK	4946
53	DM6EE	4868
54	K4GM	4863
55	DF7TV	4830
56	OK1RR	4790
57	W4CMG	4785
58	EA6BF	4763
59	VE3MV	4618
60	DJ5CW	4608
61	KC4WQ	4571
62	KM4FO	4561
63	OZ3SM	4545
64	N5KD	4540
65	W6AYC	4485
66	F5SGI	4432
67	WS1L	4255
68	W0TG	4248
69	KW7Q	4230
70	G4PVM	4190
71	AF5J	4163
72	WU6P	4162
73	EA6EJ	4142
74	K0TC	4117
75	KV8Q	4116
76	NE2V	4075
77	NE5A	4056
78	W2CDO	4040
79	W3WHK	4034
80	N1EN	4033
81	KK0U	3993
82	M0RYB	3990
83	KR3E	3871
84	KC3M	3827
85	N3CKI	3777
86	SM0HEV	3772
87	K4TZ	3730
88	HB9ARF	3697
89	K3ZA	3649
90	KW1X	3535
91	K2YR	3413
92	4X6GP	3373

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ACA

89	PA2TA	328
90	AC3RA	322
90	LY2MM	322
90	W2CDO	322
91	WA5PFJ	319
92	WB2FKO	317
93	KC9YL	311
93	SP7OGP	311
94	KB4DE	308
95	F6JOE	306
95	KK0U	306
96	K0RX	304
96	KQ4J	304
97	K8XCO	303
97	KT4XN	303
98	WT3K	302
99	DM6EE	300
100	WS1L	298

ACMA

90	SP7OGP	554
91	SP4JFR	550
92	WB2FKO	539
93	KE4CR	531
94	IN3FHE	530
95	F6JOE	514
96	WE4AUB	513
97	DM6EE	495
98	AC3RA	488
98	G4PVM	488
99	G4IZZ	482
100	SM0HEV	479

CMA

93	G3LDI	3352
94	W5AL	3285
95	IT9VDQ	3265
96	W9CF	3260
97	G3NKC	3240
98	W2VM	3230
99	W8OV	3223
100	W7GF	3167

73, Bill WØTG (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

April was a slow month for ragchewing for CWops. This month, I only received 22 QTX reports, compared to 27 for March. I suppose as the weather warms up, there will be less time for ragchewing as we spend more time outdoors.

Even so, I'd encourage you all to submit QTX reports, even if you have only one or two ragchew QSOs. Doing so will motivate you to get on the air more and encourage others to ragchew as well.

Also, remember that you can still submit QTX reports for previous months. They won't be reported on in the column here, but will be counted towards your annual total.

73, Dan KB6NU (CWops #1418)



N8AI: I fried my stealth RG316 feed line and was off the air the final ten days of April waiting on ABR to make two new REAL coax feed lines. All is well now. I also added a second Kellemen trap dipole for 12m, 17m, 20m WARC+.

DK9HE: Only a few this month, looking forward to make again more.

K8WWS: It's been fun for the past few months. I have been exchanging Bible Passages and learning to send from memory. For some reason CW helps me memorize the verses better than just on my own.

VE3INE: I tapped my straight key for many hours this month.

AAØYY: I had a nice QSO with WA1FFL Jim, he was on a bug that his father gave to him at age 15. His dad was a WWII Veteran. I know that key was special to him.

W8OV: The mQTX contact was 19 mins. at QRP power.

KG5IEE: This month I had a lot more QTX than I did mini-QTX. Two frequent QTXers are Mark, AAØYY and Bruce, K8UDH. No sked with Mark, but we find each other, usually on 30-meters. I have a weekly sked with Bruce, who was my CWA Beginner Advisor from 8 years ago.

WS1L: April brought a nice chat with Vin, WZ2J about our POTA set ups, as well as QSOs with many of the regulars.

KR2Q: Very slow month...too busy at work. There's always next month.

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KF9VV: Mix of operating from home and out camping. Completed a bunch of QTX contacts with a doublet and 10 W.

ABØWW: 3 QSOs over 30 minutes: thanks, WA6JJM, KB7RYU, and KC6PGA.

QTX - May 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>		
VE3INE	147	N8AI	28	KY4GS	15	KR2Q	5	GWØETF	2
AAØYY	47	WG9P	24	W1SIM	11	KN5EE	5	W8OV	1
WA4IAR	44	KF9VV	23	K8UDH	7	K8WWS	5		
N7HCN	37	WS1L	16	G4KKU	7	ABØWW	5		
KB6NU	29	KG5IEE	16	DK9HE	6	N5LB	2		

mQTX - May 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>		
AAØYY	37	N8AI	16	G4KKU	8	K8UDH	4	VE3INE	1
WS1L	28	WA4IAR	14	KG5IEE	6	DK9HE	2	N7HCN	1
KY4GS	26	KB6NU	12	WG9P	5	ABØWW	2		
KF9VV	23	GWØETF	8	KR2Q	5	W8OV	1		

QTX - Total 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>		
VE3INE	479	VE3WH	80	AJ1DM	33	N9EEE	10	G3EEC	3
AAØYY	234	KF9VV	63	KN5EE	31	AA3TZ	10	WE5J	2
N7HCN	195	KR2Q	62	K8UDH	22	N3JT	8	W3WHK	2
WG9P	147	KG5IEE	61	AE4GS	22	DG5CW	8	NØBM	2
N8AI	140	K9OZ	59	ABØWW	17	KW4NJA	6	GWØETF	2
WA4IAR	136	KCØVKN	58	K2MZ	16	DK9HE	6	SV2BBK	1
KB6NU	108	W1SIM	54	W8OV	15	K6DGW	5	KM4JEG	1
WS1L	104	N2DA	46	K8WWS	14	WB3EGD	3	KE7IR	1
KY4GS	96	G4KKU	38	N9FZ	12	N5LB	3		

mQTX - Total 2026

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>		
KY4GS	180	WA4IAR	52	N9FZ	20	N3JT	10	NØBM	5
AAØYY	159	KG5IEE	46	DG5CW	19	KW4NJA	10	AA3TZ	4
WS1L	128	GWØETF	45	G3EEC	17	SV2BBK	10	KM4JEG	4
N8AI	111	G4KKU	36	ABØWW	12	K2MZ	9	KE7IR	4
KCØVKN	82	VE3WH	31	AJ1DM	11	W8OV	9	K8WWS	2
KR2Q	78	WG9P	22	WE5J	11	N9EEE	9	DK9HE	2
KB6NU	67	KB4DE	22	N7HCN	10	K8UDH	8	W1SIM	1
KF9VV	56	VE3INE	21	AE4GS	10	K6DGW	7	PE2V	1



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

Leopold "Leo" von Bismarck, DL2COM CWops #3885

Hi, my name is Leo (43 years old, married with two kids aged 5 and 7), and my amateur radio journey began when I got licensed in September 2021. However, my interest in communication technology goes back to my childhood, when I built a simple intercom system with a cable across the roof in order to chat with my friend next door.

Later, I joined the signal corps during mandatory military service in Germany and then moved to Berlin to study Industrial Engineering with a major in Information and Communication Technology. Since then, I have made a career in entrepreneurship, building companies from scratch and helping others scale theirs. Our last company is called tado° (<https://www.tado.com/en>) and offers solutions for homeowners and tenants to improve their comfort while saving on energy costs: smart thermostats for HVAC systems – similar to the US company Nest.

During lockdown in 2020, two things happened: I randomly watched a SOTA activation video of Adam K6ARK sending dits and dahs from a mountaintop, and then many more similar videos from Tom K4SWL. At the same time, I was searching for a solid radio solution for fishing trips on our local lake, which has no cell phone reception. That sparked the idea to get a license and also start SWLing. After a couple of years experimenting with all sorts of ham radio-related projects, I fell in love with CW, especially in combination with QRP *OTA activating and later DXing (two microlight all-CW dpxpeditions done to 3A and HB0) and contesting. The mostly predefined nature of a SOTA or POTA QSO helped me lose on-air anxiety quickly, and I became a passionate CW operator, with 82% of my entire log in that mode.

I regularly write about special activations on my friend Thomas' blog Qrper.com. Two highlights of my CW journey:

<https://qrper.com/2024/07/mount-athos-qrp-morse-code/>

<https://qrper.com/2023/11/dits-and-dahs-from-alcatraz-pota-radio-elecraft/>

I want to extend my gratitude to Marcus DF1DV of AGCW, who has been my CW mentor for many years and has pushed me to keep at it while being an extraordinarily funny and life-affirming friend. I would also like to send special thanks to my sponsors, and especially Fabian (DJ5CW), who built a great platform for new and seasoned CW operators (LCWO). It helped me a great deal in becoming more proficient.

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Currently, I am building a remote station in the countryside about 2 hours north of Berlin, as I cannot have any antennas at my main QTH. I am working on the "DXCC 200 CW," with 191 countries worked, all with an FT-891 and most of them with Hamsticks from the car. For me, it is a special thrill to log a rare DXpedition with a minimal setup, but it is now increasingly hard to reach the very rare ones from the car, so I am putting a reasonable effort into building a modest station that can be controlled remotely.

More hobbies include hiking, tennis, fishing, hunting and listening to all kinds of music.

I am looking forward to getting to know the world of CWops and to hopefully work many of you in CWT once my remote setup is operational. Can I just say one thing: I loooove pileups.

Chris Hernandez, W8BOY CWops #3896

Hello world - as you may suspect from those 2 words, I'm an engineer by day, a hand-tool woodworker by night, and a backpacker / nature enthusiast as time and weather allows. That was, until I became a ham... I'm fairly new to the ham world, having received my Technician license on July 31st of 2025, but boy have I become obsessed. I have my friend Alex (N1TRX) to thank for that. What originally started as a "simple" request for some FRS radio recommendations turned into, what I hope will be, a life-long hobby. Now I just need him to get me in touch with someone that can take down all the wires and throw weights stuck in my trees...

By August 8th, I had my fill of VHF/UHF operations and picked up my General, which was possible thanks to the plethora of online VEs. I spent the rest of August trying out different modes and activities with my new privileges and having an absolute blast; only limited by propagation and the 20 w output of my Xiegu G90. It wasn't long at all until I caught wind of this "POTA" thing and became a SSB hunter. It took even less time to realize I had a very modest setup and my signal reports weren't what I wanted them to be.

Enter CW. I first stumbled into CW by discovering qrper.com and seeing how other low-power ops, well, operated. Once I saw a few of Thomas', K4SWL, videos, I was hooked. It didn't hurt that my YL (pictured) had made fun of me several times because she could hear me struggling with SSB contacts - picking up a paddle instead of a mic would instantly put a stop to that! Now I just had to learn it; easier said than done.

That fall, I enrolled in the highly regarded CW Academy by CWops and took Buzz's, AC6AC, Beginner pre-classes. It was such a great experience that by the time the official classes rolled around, I was prepared to jump straight into his Fundamental class. Without his tutelage, the help of the

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many fantastic co-advisors, including Dave K9HIM, Dale N5SGQ, and David KO4OWS (to name a few), and the many friends I made in the classes, I wouldn't be here today - a proud member of CWops. So, thank you to all those that helped me along in my CW journey, including my sponsors: Bob, N4BP; Mitch, K7RL; Mike, N8DNA; and Vic, VA2WA, as well as the fantastic community we have here at CWops. I look forward to meeting and making more friends OTA!

Ben Cahill, AC2YD CWops #3915

First: I am honored to be a member of CWops! My on-air activity from home is mostly contesting and DXing, 99+% QRP CW. Digital modes are cool, but I really enjoy CW (and always have)! High power is cool, but physics and nature are astonishing when I can work amazing DX with just 5 watts!! Many, many thanks to my fellow members of Delaware Valley Radio Association - AD2EK, N3DD, N2VY - for your enthusiasm for nominating me, and to W7JET for your additional sponsorship!

Classic story: I got my Novice ticket in sophomore year of high school, 1970, and passed General and Advanced soon after (never did quite get to 20 wpm for Extra). I loved ham radio, and schoolmates still remember me for staying up all night working contests and DX, and my wall of QSL cards! I did a little SSB, but mostly CW, with a Radio Shack straight key, and eventually a Vibroplex bug I borrowed from the high school physics classroom. In college, I became equipment manager at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's radio club, W2SZ. Then, electronics and software career, apartments, no radio, marriage, family, house, no radio... I dropped my license, but still, somehow, my hand retained that feeling of sending my old call sign with the bug!!



After retiring from my software engineering career with Intel in 2016, I was inspired to think about ham radio again after seeing the 2017 total eclipse and its ionosphere-activating corona, and remembering my amazing relative Al Hege, W4ABT, (SK, big inspiration during high school); I got my Extra ticket in late 2018. While trying to figure out how to get back on the air (lots of new aspects to ham radio after 45 years, and I did not want to be an "appliance operator"!), I listened to 40 m CW via SDR daily over breakfast to refresh my ear.

Eventually, I built a Softrock RXTX Ensemble kit, installed the Quisk software transceiver to drive it, set up a 1/4-wave fan vertical hanging from our maple tree (like high school), found my old Radio Shack straight key, bought a Vibroplex Blue Racer from an estate sale, and was back on the air on Memorial Day 2020 using the old straight key! After a while (with many thanks to QRP contests, SKCC, SSTs, POTA, etc.), I started to transition from straight key to bug. I consciously avoided a keyer, so I could work on good timing with my fist alone (I'm a musician, as well).

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But I recently built a keyer kit, and I now have all 3 (straight, bug, keyer) set up side by side, so I can switch back and forth instantly.

My rig is now a Hermes Lite 2 and a Raspberry Pi, set up as a "rig-in-a-box" outdoors at the base of my maple tree vertical, controlled via Wi-Fi, running Remote Quisk on a laptop in my office.

My favorite on-air activities are contesting (mostly major ones these days, but small ones are cool, too), DXing, and POTA hunting, all QRP CW. Favorite contests are WPX (AC2 is a rare multiplier!), and November Sweepstakes (usually 1st place QRP CW Hudson Division, very close to, but still seeking, a clean sweep!). I've even set some records competing on 80 m QRP CW in CQ WPX and ARRL DX. My favorite off-air activity is designing/building a multi-antenna phased SDR transceiver from scratch (taking longer than I hoped, but I'm learning a ton!). Another major interest is music, playing keyboards in jazz/rock ensembles, and bass and handbells at church.

Ray Oliver, G3NDS CWops #3911

It is a real honour to be accepted into CWops. I would like to thank my proposer, Randy, N1SP, and my sponsors Gert, PA3AAV, Simone, IU-3QEZ, and Sandor, HA5BMS, for their support.

I obtained my full UK license in 1957 at the age of 17, travelling to London's head PO to pass the 12 wpm CW test. This interest in radio led to an apprenticeship with Decca Radar Research Laboratories, launching a successful career as an electronic design engineer and later in marketing director roles with TI, Inmos, and Nokia.

In the early days, I operated an army-surplus CR100 and a home-built 10 w AM valve rig. My mic was famously constructed from two tea strainers lashed together. Using an ex-army straight key, I spent many nights in RSGB CW contests.

Radio and CW was always entwined with my life; my children grew used to the "G-whip" antenna on the family car, or boating holidays on canals, lakes & sea.

A major shift occurred in 1993 when I retrained to gain a PGCE training degree from Oxford Brookes University. To complete the degree, I taught adult classes in circuit construction, the RAE, and 12 wpm CW amongst many other marketing & radio comms classes. For CW, whilst I recommended the Koch method software, much of the practice was on straight keys—how I wish I had learnt to use a paddle or found CWops back then!

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During those years I was very active with two local radio clubs, operating all modes with regular CW ragchews using my growing collection of straight keys. My Marconi NATO is my favourite. I also organised & operated the JOTA for local Marlborough scouts over several years, meaning my two youngest sons could join in the fun.

Upon retiring in 2004, I pursued my dream of learning to sail. After earning my RYA YM Offshore, I embarked on a two-year circumnavigation of the UK in 2008/9. This trip was in memory of my daughter, Anne, whose tragic loss to mental illness significantly impacted my life. Operating /MM with an IC706, I provided many contacts to clubs and amateurs seeking IOTA, WAB squares or those following my blog.

Today, I live in a flat on England's South coast. Since antennas are restricted, I focus on CW QRP with an IC705 and stealth antennas. This is what spurred me to learn to use a paddle and increase my CW speed. Not easy at my age but supported by CWA I am proud of the progress I have achieved. I am active in the CWTs and just two shy of my QRZ Europe DX QRP award.

My local club is very active in SSB contests, but less so in CW; my goal is to change that by encouraging members to embrace CW. Operating the club QRO station will also help me to hone my own contest skills and speed further.

I look forward to meeting you all on air—I hope you can pick me out of the QRM.

Jerry Richards, AB5SE CWops #3922

Thank you to Dave, KØRX, for nominating me, and to VE3INE, K9CPO, KO4VW, K1GMS, and N5TJ for sponsoring me. It is truly an honor to become a member of such a well-respected organization.

I come from a radio family. My father, K5YRZ (SK), and my uncle, K5IOU (SK), were both hams. Now my daughter holds her grandfather's call sign, K5YRZ (first issued in 1959), and my XYL is also licensed, even though neither are active.

My amateur radio journey began in mid-1993 with my first license, KC5AGH. I quickly moved up to Advanced class as KJ5PO and earned Extra Class status as AB5SE later that year.

My primary interests early on were DXing and contesting. Since my CW skills were still developing, SSB was my preferred mode. However, as my CW proficiency improved, it quickly became my clear favorite — with all other modes not even a close second.

After operating extensively for about a decade, I experienced radio burnout and took a 20-year hiatus.



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In early 2024, I stumbled across a version of MorseRunner on my computer and decided to test whether I could still copy code. That was all it took — the fire was instantly rekindled.

The only piece of gear I still had from the mid-90s to mid-2000s was an old Radio Shack SWR meter. I was basically starting from scratch. Making my first CW contact after getting a transceiver and the rest of the gear felt just as exciting as it did over thirty years ago.

Although I doubted I could regain my previous speed after twenty years away, my renewed enthusiasm for CW was what truly mattered. Being able to regain at least some of my CW abilities is directly attributable to the CWTs I participate in whenever time allows. What an enjoyable hour those sessions are!

I've never been a fan of change. For forty years I've worked in hearing healthcare, yet even now, when a grandmother—often in tears—tells me she can finally hear and understand her grandchildren, it brings me deep satisfaction and keeps me grounded.

I've been married to the same wonderful woman for 43 years. I couldn't ask for a better or more supportive spouse. She never complains about money spent on my hobbies. Furthermore, we've lived in the same house for 36 years. Some may call it boring; I call it stability.

Other hobbies I enjoy include competitive shooting (USPSA and Steel Challenge), camping, and reading. When planning our camping trips, I always look for a POTA campground so I can combine camping and ham radio. There's nothing quite like the thrill of working a CW pile-up, whether in a contest or during a POTA activation.

Ham radio has so much to offer, and the camaraderie within the hobby is truly special. I've long had a deep appreciation for CWops, with the professionalism and high level of proficiency displayed by its members. I am both honored and excited to now be a part of this great organization.

Tim Stinson, AI5BE CWops #3874

My name is Tim and I'm 35 years old. I've been a ham for about 12 years on and off.

I started learning CW seriously early August of 2024 with the LICW which really launched me back into the ham radio hobby. I try to get on the air every day and feel pretty proficient up to around 30 wpm thanks to the LICW and getting on the air every day. I don't mind a quick hello or short ragchew on the air.

I'm a big fan of collecting keys and have a large collection that's growing. I mostly use hand keys on the air and am



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usually on a bug most of the time.

You can usually find me doing SKCC activities or POTA. I've been blessed to live within 2 miles of a park so I'm activating frequently.

Peter Lawson, N1KJ CWops #3905

I've been an amateur radio operator since 1982, when I was an undergraduate physics student in Nova Scotia. Although my grades were average, on the strength of my interest in amateur radio, I got a summer job at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia building a microwave lens. As a masters student in Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto, I had summer jobs related to antenna design at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Greenbank, West Virginia, the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, and the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, West Germany.



My supervisor at the time told me that optical stellar interferometry was an opening field, and that eventually led to a PhD in Physics at the University of Sydney, Australia, postdoctoral appointments at the Observatoire de la Cote d'Azur, France, and the University of Cambridge, England, and a career at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

When I retired in 2024, I had been working as an instrument engineer for NASA's Europa Clipper mission and in support of surface observations for the PIXL instrument on the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover. My interest in amateur radio made it all possible.

Most of my free time for many years has been spent not on amateur radio, but in training for ultra-marathons. I read Dean Karnazes' *Ultramarathon Man* and Christopher McDougall's *Born to Run* and then ran more than a dozen 100-mile races, including the Western States Endurance Run, the HURT 100, Hardrock 100, and the Vermont 100. I'm still at it, with training occupying most of my mornings.

I became a Volunteer Examiner for the ARRL in Vermont in 2022. Now every month I help proctor exams in both Burlington and Saint Albans. I've also begun volunteering as an amateur radio operator at marathons and ultra-marathons. Strangely, all this has rekindled my interest in CW. Coupled with my interest in running, hiking, and mountains, I've now become active in QRP and Parks on the Air (POTA).

I joined the CW Academy, because I keenly felt that my CW skills were no longer equal to the 20 wpm I demonstrated for my Extra license in 1999.

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Every POTA QSO that I struggled through reminded me of that. I looked around for support and was delighted to test into the Advanced Class of the CW Academy.

I am very pleased to now be a CWops member. I've thoroughly enjoyed my journey through the Advanced Class. I am deeply grateful to my instructor, Buzz, AC6AC, co-advisors David, KO4OWS, Richard, M0RPA, and Kirk, KD1MD, as well as classmates and CWT contacts for helping to make me a better operator. The summer POTA season awaits!

Joe Hoffman, W8JH CWops #3920

My ham radio journey began back in the summer of 1972 when I was 13 years old. I had 5 sisters at home and to avoid them I would spend most summer days riding my bike all over, encompassing a roughly 10 mile radius of our home. The only rule was that I had to be home before the streetlights came on.

During Field Day that year I happened to ride by a group of hams who had a wild FD set up with generators, antennas etc. I rode over, drawn to the noise and activity and asked a ton of questions. After a brief explanation of the setup the guys taught me the FD exchange and put me behind a microphone. I operated for a few hours and next thing I knew it was close to sunset and I was still 5 miles from home. I was told about the next club meeting and said my thanks and quick goodbyes as I jumped on my bike. I was in big trouble when I got home late, I kept my mouth shut and was sent to bed without dinner, expecting that my mom would calm down by morning. The next morning, she was still mad as she showed me the local paper which, unbeknownst to me, had a picture of me operating Field Day and she yelled at me again for not telling her the day before but she soon got over it.



Dad agreed to drive me to the next club meeting and K8WLP was the club ringleader who cajoled us into getting licensed. I learned CW by listening to a 33 1/3 LP record from Radio Shack. K8WLP took me to hamfests and helped me cobble together a budget station consisting of a very drifty receiver and a rock-bound transmitter with an open frame power supply which reeked of danger and excitement. I finally gathered my nerve to get on the air early Thanksgiving morning that year. Of course, K8WLP instantly came booming back to my CQ and I was hooked.

Girls and college caused a few year hiatus, but I've been active since. Having never been able to build up a great station the CW advantage was always my preferred weapon for chasing DX and low level contesting, even to this day. Field Day remains a favorite for me, and although I live in Ohio, I make an effort to get out to Arizona in the winter to do some SOTA. I still get a childlike excitement when a ham from Asia or Europe answers my 5 w CW CQ from a mountain top.

I would like to thank my nominator and sponsors as I promise to always CW exuberantly! I'm not sure why it took me so long to find CWops, but I'm honored to now be a member.

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Clive Burls, MØKNP CWops #3898

I am newly graduated from Advanced CW Academy, having been taught by the excellent Buzz, AC6AC, and his great team. I live with my wife, Penny in Birmingham, UK and am a retired psychiatric nurse and university lecturer. I have been interested in radio since I was quite young and fascinated listening to SW communications across the world. This developed into CB when it became legal in the UK early in 1980s.



During Covid lockdown I decided to study amateur radio online and gained my Full Licence in 2024 through the Bath based Distance Learning Program. I am a keen Summits On The Air hunter and chaser, and enjoy long walks with the family in the Lake District where there are some reasonable mountains and fells. I usually use minimal equipment and mainly a small VHF/UHF handheld radio, but I was frustrated that many of the QSOs were conducted in CW. I was missing out on points!! This inspired me to learn CW... I searched for advice and a Club member, M6KET, suggested I try CWops because he had undertaken the Advanced course some years ago.

My CWops journey commenced in January 2025 with Beginners advised by Marcus N3VO which gave me a solid background to CW and then moved onto Fundamental, Intermediate and Advanced with Buzz and his team to complete in March 2026. This course has enabled me to improve in skill and confidence from the supportive atmosphere generated by Buzz's excellent team of co-advisors and my fellow classmates. I also found the international involvement very interesting and learned a good deal from fellow students across the USA and Europe.

I would have no hesitation in recommending the course to others wanting to take up CW.

Øistein Rune "Ron" Hansen, LA4HIA CWops #3917

I am 62 years old, born in 1964. I use only my middle name on the radio; its easy short version "RON."

Interest of radio communication since the early 80s. License, April 1992, (back in the days when CW was a mandatory part of the test to get a license). Enjoy CW Qs and DX work. Use 99% CW but occasionally pick up a microphone. And sorry, I don't do any FT8. QRV on 10-160 m, (not 60 m) and have a great pleasure of low band. All my activity is from my home QTH, not any remote. Confirmation on LoTW and ClubLog, uploaded regularly.



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Member of Norwegian Telegraphy Club.

Worked Them All. 340 relevant countries in the log, and a few deleted ones. #338 DXCC on CW. P5, KH3 on SSB.

Station-rig since 1993, Yaesu FT1000D, still kicking. And a Yaesu FTdx 5000MP Limited. Linear amplifier from OM-Power OM3500HF high QRO. Morse Keys: Profi M fra Gerhard Schurr DH2SAA, and a Chrome Bencher.

Stewart Bryant, G3YSX CWops #3891

I have been a radio amateur for over 50 years. I got into amateur radio through the far sighted work of G3YIC and G3YNP who, as scout leaders, recognised that not all boys liked getting cold and wet, and so 60 years ago set up a scout district maker centre which included an amateur radio club.

My main interest is in the technology of telecommunications systems which of course includes the technical side amateur radio. I make things, I contest, I chase DX, and I write about write about amateur radio things. I have served in various roles on the RSGB Board for 13 years and have held the roles of RSGB President and RSGB Board Chair. Professionally I did research and advanced development on computer communications systems, mainly building high speed routers and leading the standardisation of a number of routing protocol.



I would like to thank the CW Academy for their excellent courses which showed me how enjoyable CW is and helped me greatly improve my speed. I would like to make a special call out for Bob, WR7Q, who got me through Intermediate and Buzz, AC6AC, for his highly intensive and incredibly inspiring Advanced Course.

Thomas "Tom" Brown, W2EQ CWops #3884

I'm quite honored being invited to join CWops. Thanks very much to W6SX, K4TZ, WE4AUB, W4UT, KD2FSH for my nomination and sponsorship.

My interest in radio started with short wave listening as a teenager. I would listen to all the SW broadcast stations and send for their QSL cards. I was a DJ and sportscaster at my high school FM radio station which required me to go to the FCC office in Philadelphia for the Third Class Radiotelephone Operators License test. With the Boy Scouts, I went to visit a local amateur operator, saw his HF station and knew I had to do this. As I started looking at colleges, I decided that my college must have an amateur radio club. Visiting the New Jersey Institute of Technology, I

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met members of radio club K2MFF, saw their awesome shack and decided to go there. I got involved quickly and started learning Morse code. I took and passed the test, which required 5 wpm, right in the club shack proctored by my mentor Steve, WA2LWB. My novice issued callsign was KA2RRR. I did a lot of operating and working on antennas at college, I learned a lot there.



Education plans were to pursue electrical engineering but late in high school I enjoyed a computer programming class so much, realized it was the future and switched to computer science. I started working as a computer programmer for small companies before pursuing an awesome job at AT&T Bell Labs. AT&T spun me off to Lucent Technologies who later spun me off to Avaya. Eventually I found my way back to AT&T, where I still work today. Cool thing was, I always had a ham radio club with a shack in the building. I met a lot of great hams at work and participated in many fun events over the years. I would even enjoy a few contacts from the club shack during lunch. I'm a long time committee member for the Western Electric/AT&T CQWE contest.

My wife Laura and I live in a log house in somewhat rustic New Egypt, NJ. Between us we have 3 children with one still living at home. We both enjoy hiking outdoors and exploring new places in nature. We enjoy freshwater fishing together as well. I'm thankful that my wife supports my ham radio activity. I've also been involved with and enjoy short track stock car racing. Starting as a pit crew member as a teen and later I built and raced my own car. These days I'm just a fan.

I prefer operating CW, enjoy chasing DX and participating in the CW contests. I especially enjoy the shorter SST, MST and CWops when they fit around my work schedule. I look forward to retirement and more regular participation. I occasionally do FM satellite contacts with handheld equipment. I've recently started working CW POTA stations and would like to try some park activations, using CW of course. My shack is in the basement and nothing fancy. Equipment is a Yaesu FT-2000 with a Palstar LA-1K amplifier. Antennas are a ground mounted GAP Titan DX and a 160m/80m dipole.

Dave Miller, N9SS CWops #3913

I am deeply honored to be accepted as a member of the CWops fraternity, and truly grateful for the nomination from Buzz, AC6AC, and sponsorships from AA3B, KD1MD, and W7JET! The training and motivation I received through your excellent CW Academy was exactly what I needed to break through to the next level of CW proficiency after over 40 years of inactivity.

I was first licensed in 1970 as a Novice while a high school freshman, due to an FCC violation letter sent to my mom that required me to shut down my local AM & FM radio broadcast station! The FCC citation recommended that I refocus my energies toward the amateur radio hobby, and so my journey began! I spent the next ten years exploring all the wonderful mysteries of ham radio, such as DXing, VHF meteor scatter and EME (both CW back then), contesting, DXing, RTTY,

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antenna building, homebrewing, etc.

Then, like many of us, I had to grow up and get a full-time job when I married and raised a family. Other than the occasional Field Day effort from my back yard with my kids, I was increasingly inactive for 4 decades due to the increasing demands of my electronics contracting business that kept me busy 24/7; until my retirement 3 years ago!

The last three years have been spent rebuilding my ham station and attempting to recover and re-live the CW proficiency I enjoyed as a teenager. That journey started with SKCC Senator achievement, and finally the coveted CWops membership. With my new tower completed last year, and new antennas going up this spring, I hope to connect with all my new CW Academy friends and participate in the CWT weekly events in the weeks ahead!

Thank you to all the CWops members, for what you do to promote the art and life of CW!

John Stanford, KF6I CWops #3919

I was first licensed in 1974 at the age of 13 as WN8SVN and have now been a ham for 52 years. Back then, I was an active member of the FAROUT Amateur Radio Club (WB8SMC). We designed and built a 2-meter repeater from scratch, which operated on 147.735 MHz and was housed in my parents' basement from 1977 through 1983. This repeater became the young hams hang-out repeater in the Dayton area.

I earned my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Dayton in 1983 and my Master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996. My graduate studies concentrated on electromagnetics and antenna design, where I had the privilege of working under Professor Paul Mayes — a true pioneer in broadband antenna research.

I run Island Amplifier USA, providing high-quality amplifier repair services. I also serve as a sales representative for RF POWER and BEKO Elektronik, both manufacturers of legal-limit amplifiers. Additionally, I restore vintage Alpha amplifiers and produce reproduction panels and meters for them. You can see more about my ham radio products and services at www.islandamplifier.com.



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When I'm not working on amplifiers, I offer EMC consulting services for industry.

Contesting and CW have always been my favorite operating modes, so joining CWops felt like a natural fit. I look forward to seeing you on the air during Wednesday CWops sessions and other club events!

Jarek Schubert, OK2PWX/OE3PWX CWops #3929

My name is Jarek Schubert. I was born 1964 in Olomouc, Moravia, Czechoslovakia, today Czech Republic, EU. I am living now in Austria and also in the Czech Republic, where we have two family houses and two QTHs. So, you can reach me as OE3PWX in Laa an der Thaya (JN88er) and in the Czech Republic as OK2PWX in Olomouc (JN89pn).

I got my first youth licence as OL7BEC in 1979, couple of years later I made exam for Telegrafie Licence Adults in Prague, and I got the Licence as OK2PWX. My parents supported me in my hobby, and I was able to build my first mast for large antenna system by my parents' house by my 18th birthday.

Especially my dad, he was a locksmith, supported me very well in the constructions by buildings of antennas and my mom did a lot of the Bohemian dumplings for ham radio friends by visiting me in Olomouc. Sometimes was a competition who will eat more dumplings from the colleagues or by the kids of them. When she passed away a couple of years ago, my German friend Lutz DL5KUA told me "I'll miss your mom and also the best cook of the Czech dumplings."



For a short time, I was running also with my German Licence Y29HA in a QTH Bentwisch bei Rostock. In the Czech Republic I grow up in my mother club station OK2KWX in Olomouc, where I am thankful for a great part of my ham radio knowledge.

I finalized my studies on the Technical University of Brno (VUT) as a Telecommunications Engineer.

My first job after school was as a new engineer was work in the mountains on the TV transmitter station Praded (Altwater) by Ceske Radiokomunikace. After this, I must go to one year military service, where I was worked as a telecommunications officer by the Czech Army in West Bohemia in Pilsen.

Later, I was assembling and business starting the first private radio station in my town Radio Hana and worked later as a business director there and was active on the segment of media advertising agencies.

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Couple of years later I was builder of the local office Siemens for building the BTS rollout of cellular phones networks in my country for over 7 years.

After the building works of BTS had been closed and Siemens department of telecommunications removed from Olomouc back to Prague and Munich. And on this time, I realized my independent "American dream" and started my own business in gastronomie and started my own franchise chain Daniels Donuts in the Czech Republic and become exclusive distributorship from the builder of the donut machine in US Mr. Ed Anderson from Lil' Orbits Inc., from Minneapolis USA for this part of Central Europe.

My other hobbies are travelling, cycling (now by e-bike), hiking (SOTA and POTA is in planning) and keeping of pets especially dogs and cats.

I am living with my wife Yveta, where she is sharing the other hobbies with me and supporting me in my ham radio activities and we enjoy also spending the time with our two grandchildren, Helli and Hanni.

Mike Hasselbeck, WB2FKO CWops #3881

I learned Morse code as a teenager when I was first licensed WN2FKO in April 1976. School and then an itinerant professional career kept me almost completely inactive for the next 26 years. Many CWops have a similar story.

The technical intrigue and challenges of digital meteor scatter and weak-signal VHF pulled me back in 2002, although very little Morse code was needed for that. Sometime in 2024, I stumbled onto the Q5 Ham Radio YouTube channel featuring elite HF contesters with what seems like super-human CW skills. This got me wondering whether I could regain a decades-dormant code proficiency. With the help of <https://lcwo.net/>, morsecode.ninja, and the N4GO and K9KJ YouTube channels, I was able to progress to the point where I could participate in the CWTs and HF contests.



I retired from the teaching faculty at the University of New Mexico Physics Department in 2019 and relocated to north Florida. Still keeping busy with a variety of technical projects including a startup company that develops open-source electronic hardware for the Internet of Things.

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Keith Roberts, KT4UE CWops #3918

A sincere "Thank You" to Hank, W6SX, for nominating me, and to Bert, F6HKA, Nate, K9CPO, and Brian, W7JET, for their confidence to sponsor me. Your support is really special to me.

My story with the amateur radio hobby is rather simple and started with an innocent opportunity. My son, Jamie, was in the Boy Scouts and his scout leader was an amateur radio operator, Henry, N4HB. Henry offered introductory classes to the scouts so they could get a badge for amateur radio. I participated as a parent, and I was interested in learning about the radio hobby. Jamie and I continued our study of theory and started learning CW, eventually testing and receiving our Technician and General class licenses together. Today, we are both still operating as Extras, me as KT4UE and Jamie as W0CD. Over the years, my passion has been with CW. I have spent many years working to improve my speed and head copy.

I participate in the Parks on the Air (POTA) and World Wide Flora & Fauna (WWFF) programs. I enjoy outdoor adventures and the associated challenges. Both POTA and WWFF tend to address that passion, bringing ham radio into the mix with park activations. I am not a big contester, but enjoy casually working ARRL Sweepstakes, ARRL International DX, SKCC Sprints, and CWTs.

Besides amateur radio, I enjoy sports, the outdoors, and staying active. Those hobbies include road cycling, mountain biking, fly fishing, backpacking, and archery. I volunteer for a non-profit, Sportable, that offers a wide variety of sports to people with disabilities (youth, adults, veterans). Knowing that my time is enabling these athletes to participate in sports is such a reward for me. Sportable activities I am involved with are cycling, whitewater kayaking, power soccer, rock climbing, flat water kayaking, and archery.

Above all, I am blessed with a fabulous family. A lovely wife, four adult children, and nine grandchildren.

I am honored to be welcomed as a new member.



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