Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter

September 2026 - Issue 200

The VJ2L Lord Howe Island DXpedition Team.
Read about their DXpedition starting on page 13.

President's Message

by Don Greenbaum, N1DG #2

In this month's headshot of me you will notice an original CWopen T shirt. They were made for those working the 2011 Hamvention CWops table at the HARA Arena.

(Continued on next page

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Don Greenbaum, N1DG
Vice President: John Glover, W2QL
Secretary: Jim Talens, N3JT
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, K9CT
Director: Bert Banlier, F6HKA
Director: James Brooks, 9V1YC
Director: Raoul Coetzee, ZS1C
Director: Riki Kline, K7NJ
Director: Allan Mason, VK2GR
Director: Theo Mastakas, SV2BBK
Director: Ken Tanuma, JN1THL
WebGeek: Dan Romanchik KB6NU
Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

CWops Tests (CWT) 1 hour on-air events
Every Wednesday at 1300z and 1900z
Every Thursday at 0300z and 0700z

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"

Solid Copy is distributed monthly on or about the 15th of the month. SolidCopy@cwops.org

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We also handed out over 300 CW Open buttons that weekend.

Our club was a little over a year old and we thought by opening up the CWT as a weekend activity we could increase our visibility to the CW community. John, K6MM, and Rob, K6RB, came up with the logo design. 15 years later the logo is still in use (minus the 2011 of course). As I write this, the 15th running of the CW Open is only a week away. This annual contest remains popular and is one of our premier visibility events. And, in keeping with my suggestion last month about youth outreach, we have announced 26 years old and under operating awards.

Visibility takes many forms. While non-members participate in both the CWTs and CW Open, weekend events are far more productive. They introduce the club to new operators and provide a source of competent CW operators that often get nominated to our club.

Conventions are our next big events. Last month, we had booths at the Huntsville Hamfest and the Tokyo Ham Fair. Both were well attended and staffed by enthusiastic members. Our CWops buttons remain popular items at these booths and you see them all over the venues. Both events are a good example of how teamwork yields good results. Ken San, JN1THL, is not only a charter member (#161) but also our Asia Director. He has run our Tokyo Ham Fair booth for many years with Hiro, JJ1FXF, our Japanese Ambassador. The booth was also staffed by Adrian, KO8SCA; Champs, E21EIC; Misa, JF1UOX; Yoshiko, JQ1LCW; Dan, 7J1ABD/WA6URY; and Toshi, JA8RUZ. There was also crossover from the Malawi hams visiting the convention who frequented our booth as theirs was just next door. Don,K6ZO also known as 7Q6M, and Urgent, 7Q6UJ were welcome additions to our group.

Our Huntsville table was organized by Jim, K0XV. He was assisted by Ted, W3TB, and Don K6ZO/ 7Q6M. Don gets around! Jim is also organizing our booth at SEDCO later this month. Thank you, Jim. If you are going to SEDCO stop by and get a button. Better yet, spend some time in our booth; it's a great way to meet your other members.

As noted above, our success in getting new members relies on our existing members. When you see a local hamfest coming up, please inquire about a booth for us. We rarely pay for these spaces as a nonprofit organization. And new CW Academy students get exposed to our programs at these booths. People do volunteer to help you (with a little prodding) man the booths. We need more country specific Ambassadors to organize these local ham fair booths. For instance, in Europe we only have Ambassadors in England and France. We have no ambassadors for countries with large ham populations like Germany and Italy. It would be great to see a booth in FHN. South America is lacking Ambassadors too. If you would like to volunteer to organize a ham fair booth and make our presence felt in your country please let me know. Better yet, volunteer to be an ambassador!

We are entering the fall equinox season when the bands enter a more active period. While the top of the cycle is over, there's still great propagation to be had. See you on the air.

73, Don, **N1DG**
President

Editor's Notes: Something New

by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE #3113

This newsletter has been delayed by a few days while we go through a publishing software transition. You know how that goes…document layout parameters and workflows, research available candidates, vet capabilities and feature sets, perform cost analysis and ROI, evaluate the learning curve, assess the impact on stakeholders, and create a transition plan that addresses short- and long-term needs while minimizing disruption.

With a sunset on the old software (MS Publisher) of October 1, this process started a year ago. However, it didn't really pick up steam until about two months ago when it became apparent that Microsoft was indeed going to strand us and thousands of other users with no alternative but a clean break and forced transition.

But as they say, when one window closes, another opens. And it definitely did.

The September issue of *Solid Copy* was prepared using Affinity (Publisher), a freeware offered by Canva. It's near the level of Adobe InDesign making it robust and feature-rich, and created for large publications such as *Solid Copy*.

But that transition comes with a learning curve, one that proved more time consuming than expected if only by my obsessive nature to fully understand every function that would enable creating a pleasing design and ease of layout.

Now, I realize that you probably don't care what software is used to produce *Solid Copy* each month. And frankly, you shouldn't. The goal is for the machinery behind the scenes to be invisible. You care about the stories, the people, the ideas, the operating tips, the history, the rankings and the things that make CWops interesting—not which buttons I had to push to make a page look right.

But there is a reason to care about the change.

New tools give us an opportunity to take *Solid Copy* to another level. Perhaps that means a more polished publication. Perhaps it means experimenting with features we couldn't easily do before. Perhaps it means thinking a little less about the mechanics of putting pages together and a little more about what we can put on those pages.

And there's the rub.

More possibilities mean more content. More content means more ideas. More ideas mean more people to turn those ideas into words—and more hams to persuade that they really are authors, whether they know it or not.

Which brings me to another change that may matter a lot more to you than a software transition.

What if *Solid Copy* had an Assistant Editor? Someone helping find stories, encourage contributors, develop ideas and assist with the content and quality of the publication.

Well…I have a volunteer that I will be delighted to "introduce" in the October issue of *Solid Copy*, though you know him well.

For now, I hope you enjoy reading the September issue.

***73, Dick*, N9EEE**
Editor
Solid Copy@cwops.org

SC

Ops' News and Notes

by Duncan "Mac" Fisken, G3WZD #1979

Welcome to another Ops News and Notes albeit a painfully thin column with only two submissions (thank you, Char and Dick!). Keeping an eye on the reflector, I have lifted a couple of other posts that I felt might be of interest, especially as roughly a third of the membership does not subscribe to the email reflector. 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 your 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!

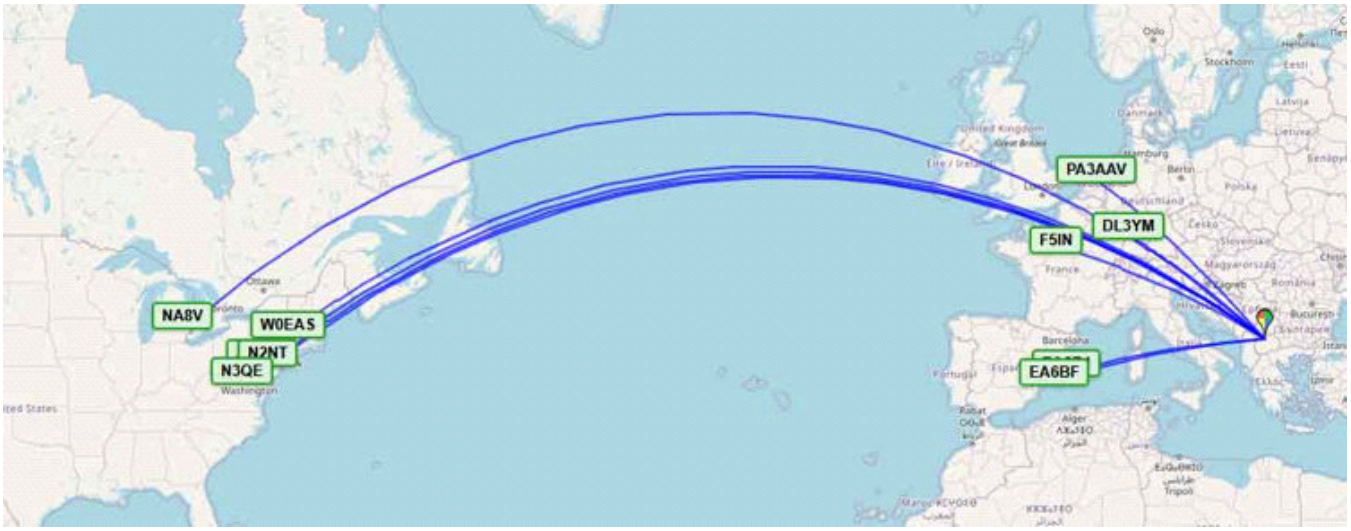
We regret to report the following member has become a Silent Key.
A condolence card has been sent on behalf of CWops.

Yuri "Rudi" Rood,
UR5MM #382
20 July 2026

Charlene, K8XCO #3543 I recently read Don's N1DG article on the decline of youth in ham radio and wanted to share a contact that I made recently. I turned on my radio and was scanning for a strong signal. I heard someone calling CQ POTA in CW. The code was not fast but was well formed and the spacing was excellent. I responded and made the contact.

Curious, I looked up the op's QRZ page. To my surprise, it was a 16-year-old YL who had just started learning CW this past January. I immediately sent her an email praising her skill and mailed a QSL card. The numbers might not be huge, but if we take the time to encourage an interest in CW in the young people we come in contact with, hopefully we can ignite the spark or fan the flame of interest. On another note, I looked through the list of all my former CWA students and I would estimate that 40% of them were under the age of 40. CW is alive and well. It just needs a little encouragement

Mishel, Z31PM #3811 Radio waves truly are a miracle. I got back to my primary QTH and found my antenna was torn down. I just picked it up and tossed it over the fire escape. Here is what the antenna looks like, along with my results from the 03:00 CWT on September 3.



Chad, N9UNX #3151 I made a new CW contest trainer, similar to MorseRunner (and others). It is cross-platform (runs on Windows, macOS and Linux), and is completely free and open source.

Here is the project link, with "quick start" instructions to download it and get started. It's not perfect, and remains a work in progress, but I think it works well enough at this point for people to use for practice.

I've made many things user-configurable, so that the user can get the experience they are looking for. More details at the link above, and in the docs directory there. So far, there is support for 5 different contests (yes, of course the CWT is one of them!).

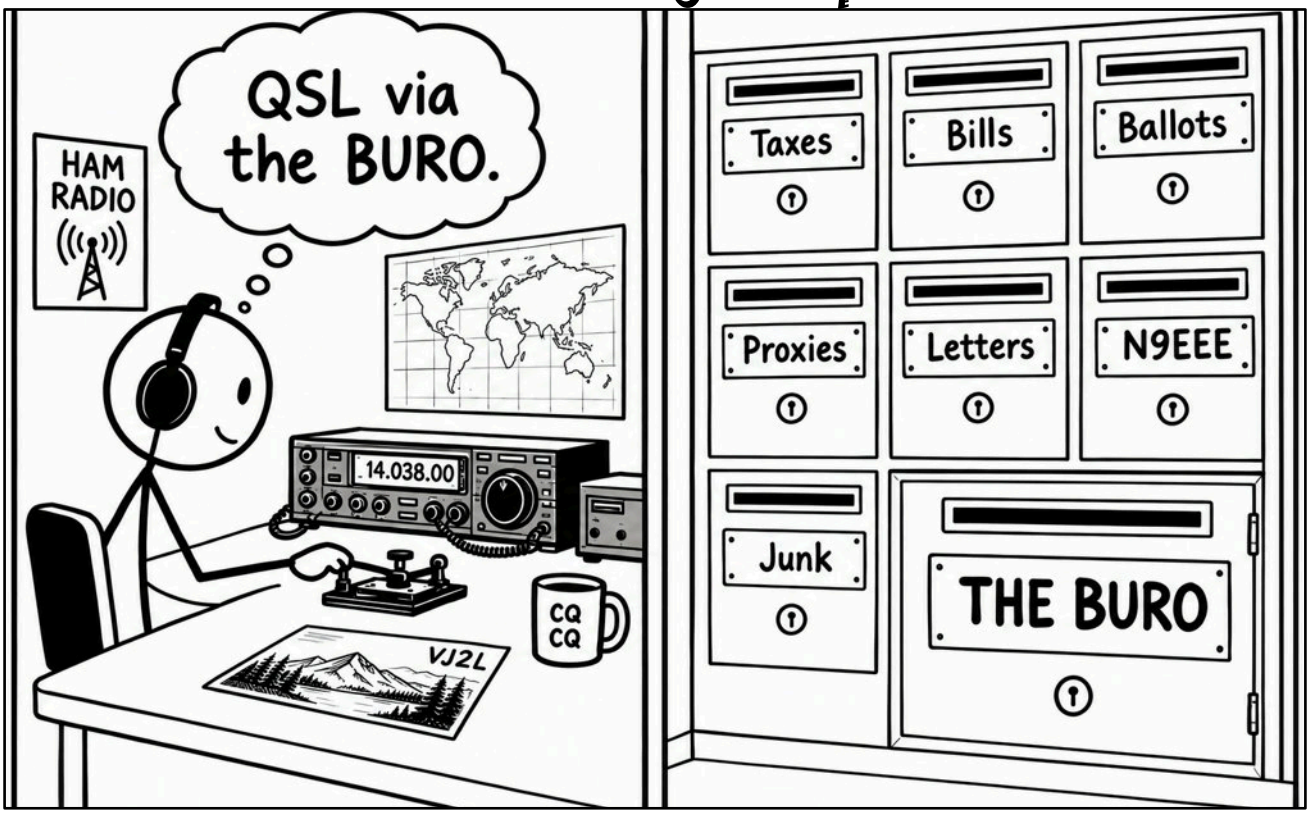
If you have feedback or ideas, please contact me directly. You can also submit issues on GitHub, but I'm not promising anything!

Note: I do not have a code signing cert, and Windows Defender will give you a popup about SmartScreen not wanting to run an unrecognized application. If you choose not to run it, I completely understand. I have not fully explored all the options for how to make Windows happy, although I think there might be some that don't cost a ton of money.

Thank you and, until the next News and Notes, QAC!

73, Duncan, **G3WZD**
NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

Hamming It Up



How We Were

by Ian Capon, GW0KRL #2896

K1TZQ, Howie Naugle, #2822

"It all started here in 1957 with a Heathkit AR-3 in my bedroom and wire hanging out the window. That's me on the left with my next door buddy, Bobby. The original grainy and almost colorless pic surfaced on the "Wayback Machine" and I added it to my QRZ page!! Many thanks to Bob, N4ITT, who saw the original there and took the time to do an amazing job enhancing it and sending back to me."

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**

Norfolk Coast Amateur Radio Society

by Bob Blackman, 2EØOBO, #2381

Having worked CWT 1300z session on 5th August from our favourite cliff top location at Mundesley, North Norfolk, and using our club call of MXØNCA/P, it occurred to me that it was time to put our small club "out there".

Bud, AA3B was the lucky winner of our 50w QSO; good ears Bud! Chas, K3WW was a contender but sadly missed out. At the cliff we use a TS590s, 10M vertical using 33 ft wire and equal length of counter poise into a 9:1 unun which tunes well from 80 through 10-meters. Also, we use Diamond monoband whips mounted on a car, which work incredibly well, having worked a VK using 50 w. With us on the cliff was our good friend and club member Mike, G3YPP.

We generally have about 10 members, give or take, with ages ranging from the younsters, 70 to 90. Sadly, we're in that age group that loses members to SK. There is a good mixture of technical, software and operator skills which really helps spread the love around.

Although there is only two of us in CWops, Tim, GØOOD and me, Bob, 2EØOBO, we live in hopes that the others will come in from the "dark side" and step into the light. To be fair, there is now five of us who regularly enter the RSGB 80m SSB/PSK/RTTY and CW contests and also enter the many worldwide contests, whether it be SSB, RTTY, or CW. Dare I say "even FT8"; there, I said it without too many after affects.

Throughout the year we run special event stations:

GB125CP 150 Years of Cromer Pier (our local pier) (2026)
GB2CLH Cromer Lighthouse (ILW)
GB2CQD SOS Radio Week (run from East Runton Coast Watch Station)
GB2ERM Mills on the Air (East Runton)
GB2RRS Roughton Rural Scouts and Mills on the Air
GB4BCC Churches and Chapels on the Air (Bacton)
GB0IGD International Gansey Day (Sheringham Museum) (Fishermens Jumpers)

We usually run SSB, CW, and FT8 on these days. QSL via EQSL

We meet every Thursday at East Runton for about five hours and have a rag(e) chew and even some operating. For CW you will hear us on 20m and 40m, perhaps a bit early or too late for some. FT8 is also running.

It's a small and friendly club where we have lots of fun and leg pulling (if you have one).

Laughter is a great tonic and tomorrow is just an opportunity to do great things.

Catch you on bands and best 73 from North Norfolk, England.

Fiona G4KAN, Mike's xyl. SOS Week East Runton Coast Watch

Attached are some shots of the "A" Team hard at work in various locations,

Featured are Fiona G4KAN, Bob 2EØOBO, Tim GØOOD, Mike G3YPP, Arthur MØVAW, and Richard G4RZN.

Tim, Bob es Mike talking about the finer points of FT8 (not)

Bob 2EØOBO, Mundesley cliff

Bob, Tim GØOOD es Arthur MØVAW

***73, Bob*, 2E0OBO**

Bob es Tim Cromer

Bob a bit chilly at the cliff wid Diamond mono band whip

Bob es Tim braving the elements

Churches es Chapels on the Air. Tim es Richard G4RZN

You Can Operate In Spain

by Mikel L. Forcada, EA5IYL/N7EES, #3765

Not holding the “top” amateur license in your country? You can still temporarily operate in Spain.

If your country is a CEPT[1] member or participating country and implements T/R 61-01, and you hold the “top” or “HAREC” license[2], you can operate temporarily in Spain, as Spain is also a CEPT country implementing T/R 61-01. No application is needed: you can do so by simply prepending a prefix EA#/ to your call sign, where # is the district number used for licenses in Spain. For example, a U.S. Extra ham with call sign W1XQJ would operate in Malaga (which is in district 7, Andalusia) as EA7/W1XQJ.

But current Spanish amateur radio regulations offer a very interesting but little known way for foreign hams, even those not holding the “top” or “HAREC” license in their countries, to operate temporarily in Spain, through article 15 of Order IET/1311/2013[3], which may be translated as follows:

> *"Article 15. Temporary Authorizations for Foreigners without a CEPT License. The SETSI[4], under the conditions established in these regulations, may authorize the holder of a valid amateur radio license issued by a country that has not adopted CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 to operate their station while temporarily present in Spanish territory. The application must include the applicant's full name, nationality, address, and the original or a certified copy of their license from their country of origin. The equipment used must comply with Spanish regulations regarding equipment and devices. The validity period of any temporary authorization issued will not exceed 90 days."*

The SETSI, the Secretariat of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure, is now called SETELECO.

Hams from countries not implementing CEPT T/R 61-01, such as Colombia, China or Sri Lanka, are directly covered by this wording. Note that, as written, it would seem it does not apply to hams from countries that have implemented CEPT T/R 61-01, but, since article 15 does not require a specific level of "valid amateur radio license," this would be unfair as it would allow a novice from a non-CEPT country (such as China) or from a CEPT country not implementing T/R 61/01 (such as Andorra) to operate, but not a ham who is licensed in a CEPT country implementing T/R 61-01 such as the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, etc., but who does not hold the "top" or "HAREC" licence. An association in Spain called FEDI-EA (EA Digital Federation[5]) fought that out with the Spanish administration. They did not succeed in getting Order IET/1311/2013 modified, but the Spanish administration decided to interpret its current wording as follows[6]:

> "This case also applies to radio amateurs with a valid licence issued by a country that has adopted CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01, but whose licence is not of 'HAREC level".

Therefore, almost any ham from any country in the world can operate in Spain after their application has been accepted.

Applying to the Spanish administration for the temporary authorization is free, but, since the application has to be filed following rather intricate administrative paths in Spain, and it has to be written in Spanish, associations such as FEDI-EA are offering the service in exchange for becoming a member[7]: (not expensive - only 10 euros a year).

For those brave enough to try on their own, I have prepared detailed instructions, which you can download from https://t.ly/yK3F1. I cannot guarantee this will get you the temporary permit. Feel free to keep me posted.

If you don't hold the "top" or "HAREC" license in your country, or it has been issued by a non-CEPT country, and you are planning to travel to Spain, this may give you the opportunity to operate there while visiting.

[1] https://www.cept.org/

[2] HAREC, the harmonized amateur radio examination certificate, is regulated by CEPT T/R 62-02, and is the instrument that allows the establishment of equivalences between the top amateur licenses of CEPT countries.

[3] https://www.boe.es/eli/es/o/2013/07/09/iet1311 , the legal text that regulates amateur radio in Spain.

[4] The SETSI is the Secretariat of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure of the Government of Spain.

[5] https://www.fediea.org/?lang=en

[6] The full text of the resolution has been withheld by FEDI-EA.

[7] https://www.eurobureauqsl.org/newsletter/eurao-news-202412.php

73, Mikel, **EA5IYL**

VJ2L: Lord Howe Island DXpedition, and a Depressed Ionosphere

by Chris Chapman, VK3QB, #2949

The last time I visited Lord Howe Island was pre-Covid, with a team of just three operators and which sometimes feels like a lifetime ago. This time was very different with seven operators and four wives, it promised a stronger sense of social engagement, sight-seeing, and non-radio discussions, as well as, of course, an endless supply of challenging pileups and interesting openings to rare DX locations.

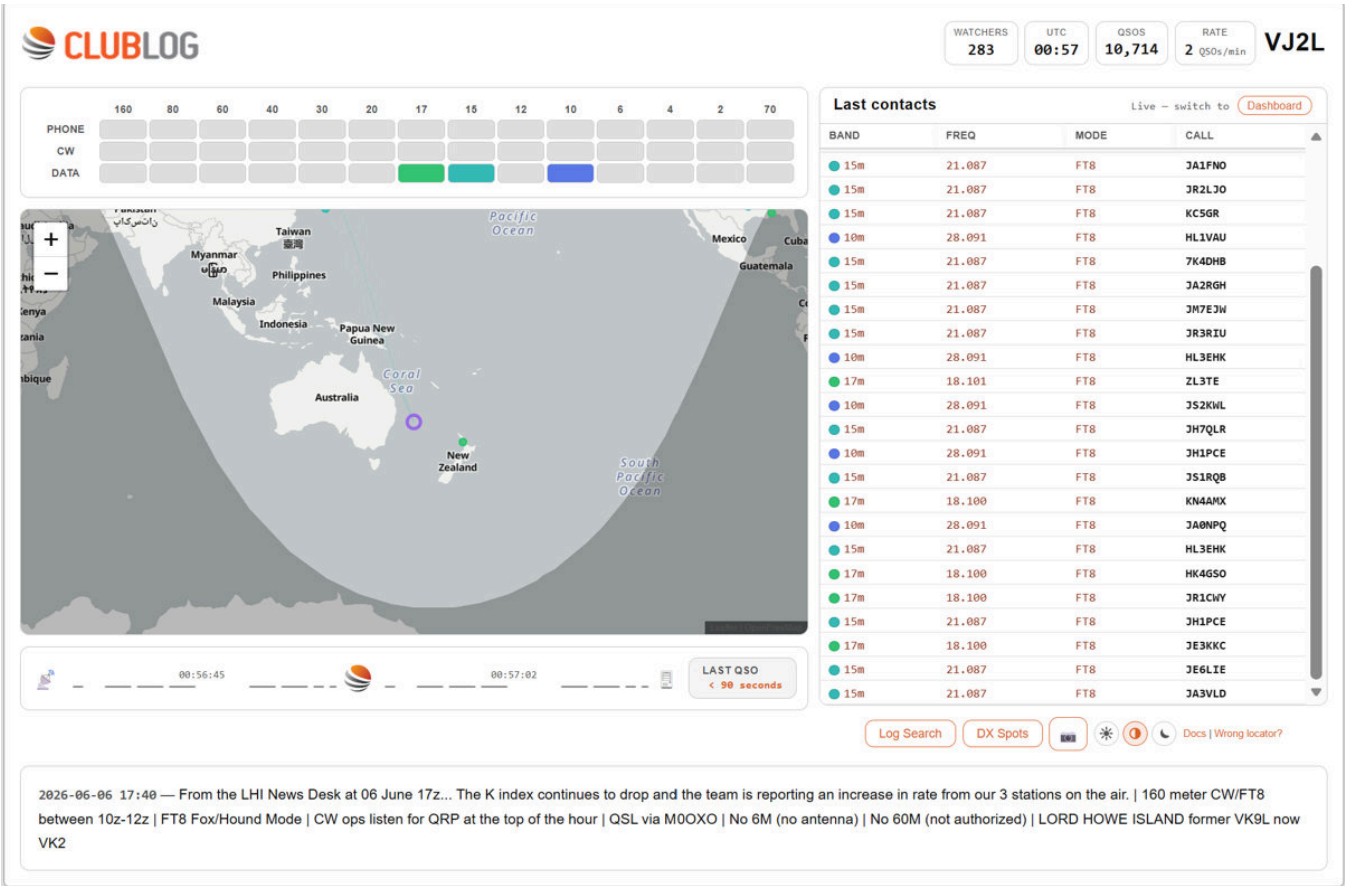
What we got instead was a masterclass in ionospheric mayhem, antenna agility tests, and the kind of technical improvisation that only happens when you're thousands of kilometres from home and the sun (and weather) decides to throw a tantrum. But isn't that the beauty of amateur radio and DXpeditioning? You never really know what you're signing up for until the first "CQ" goes out.

From the moment our team touched down on Lord Howe Island, we all felt that familiar DXpedition buzz — the excitement of setting up the stations, getting the antennas erected, the anticipation of the first contact, and the quiet dread that something, somewhere, would inevitably go wrong. And of course, it did. But I'll get to that.

Setting Up: The Joy of Simplification

Our equipment lineup was a thing of functional but technologically advanced simplicity. We had two FlexRadio Aurora 520M radios — compact, integrated 500 watt SDR transceivers that looked like they belonged in a sci-fi movie. Each one packed a 500 watt transmitter, SDR receiver, auto-ATU, filters, power supply, and network interface into a single 8.5 kg cube. As someone who has lugged traditional gear through airports, I can tell you, this was a whole new experience of convenience and logistical simplification. The third radio was an IC-7000 dedicated to FT8 operation.

We built a three-radio networked station, each radio and computer tied to a local LAN. This gave us synchronized logging, remote control (even though we didn't use remote control), and the ability to coordinate band changes without shouting across the room. The Aurora's low phase noise, high-duty-cycle digital performance, strong band pass filtering, and stable thermal design made it ideal for the kind of nonstop operation a DXpedition demands.



In a first for our team, Matt KØBBC had our three stations networked and up on Club Log Live as the first station got on-air. If you haven't used Club Log Live, take some time to check it out.

Once the radios were online, the waterfall displays lit up like Christmas lights. For a brief moment, I thought: "This is going to be another fun-filled expedition on a beautiful sub-tropical island."

I was wrong. Both terrestrial and solar weather had other plans.

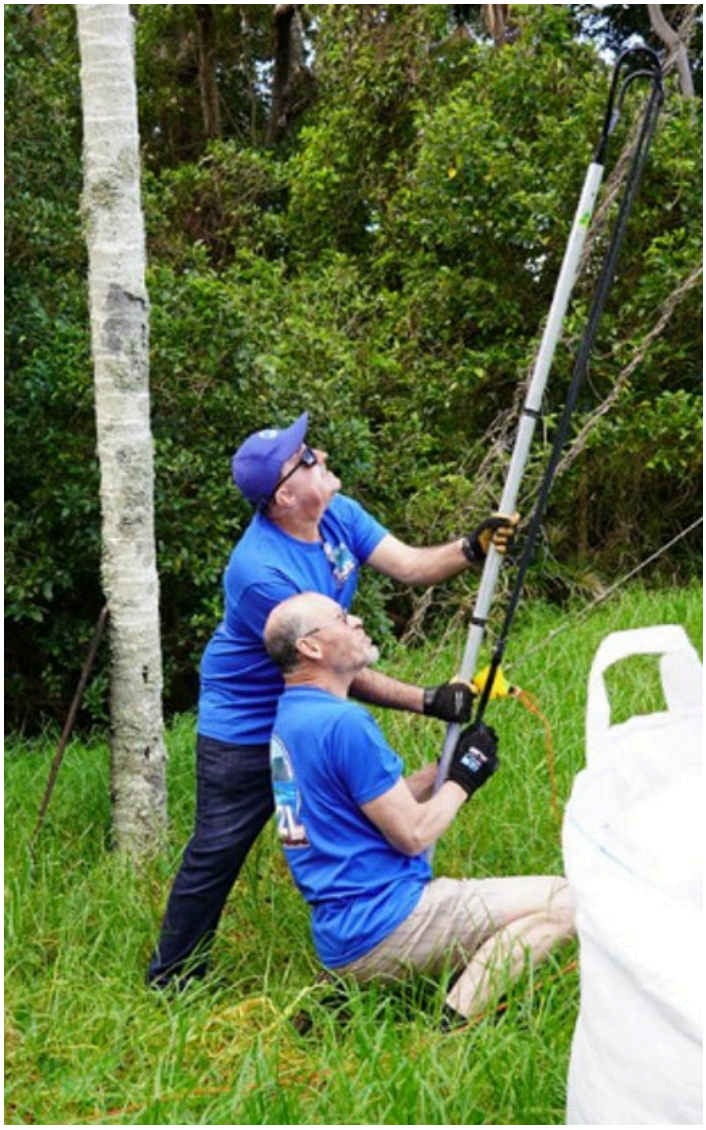
The Antenna Farm: Vertical Ambition Meets Horizontal Wind

Our antenna setup was designed to cover everything from 10-metres down to 40-metres, provide polarisation and physical separation, as well as propagation and signal angle arrival variation. The star attraction was the DX Commander Expedition vertical, a multi-element system that, when properly guyed and earthed, is a great DXpedition workhorse. We also deployed a 40-metre doublet, which — thanks to an MFJ-962 tuner — we tentatively planned to use on 80- and 160-metres if the opportunity arose. "That's crazy" you may say. But it worked; far from efficient, but it yielded a couple of good sessions across the Oceania region. It was never our intention to activate the lower bands, but as conditions on the higher bands were so disappointing, it was good to have the fallback.

The first day or so was calm enough. We tuned, tested, adjusted, and collectively admired our handiwork. Then the wind arrived.

Stepping outside on the third morning, the DX Commander was leaning at an angle that would make a structural engineer faint. A few hours later, the SWR went north, way north, and a quick inspection revealed the DX Commander was on the ground. Thankfully, Brenton, VK5BJ, and Olgierd, VK5XDX got straight onto the case and wrestled it back into position while cursing about guy ropes, pegs, soil moisture, and whether the island was actively trying to reduce our QSO count. Being a belt and braces kind of operation, an extra set of guy ropes were added to the antenna.

Similarly, the dipole antenna managed to lose an arm wrestle with the wind and Luke, VK3HJ, Patrick, VK2PN, and Chris, VK3QB felt like we entered into a work-place negotiation with the



weather gods to get the wire back in place and reasonably stable.

It would not be a complete account of the operation if I didn't recount the somewhat incredible and statistically unlikely raising of the dipole. When we were last on Lord Howe Island in 2018, we availed ourselves of an unused commercial tower to hold up one end of our dipole. As is our habit, we used an arborist's launcher (think very large sling shot) to shoot a guide-rope over the existing (unused) antennas atop the 20-metre tower.

When firing the small lead-weight bag attached to a light guide rope up and over the antenna structure, it passed clean through a VHF folded dipole about 20-metres high. A perfect sky-hook for the end of an HF dipole. And a one in a million shot.

Well, we did it again in 2026. After two failed attempts to fire the lead bag high enough, the third attempt rocketed straight through the folded dipole. This was met with collective disbelief and much laughter especially from Luke and Chris as we witnessed the very same unlikely event from our previous visit. If you focus the eyes you'll be able to spot our dipole insulator and support rope neatly threaded through the folded dipole atop the tower. Make that a two in a million shot.

These are the moments when you realise that DXpeditions are 40% radio, 20% engineering, 20% improvisation, and 20% good (or bad) fortune.

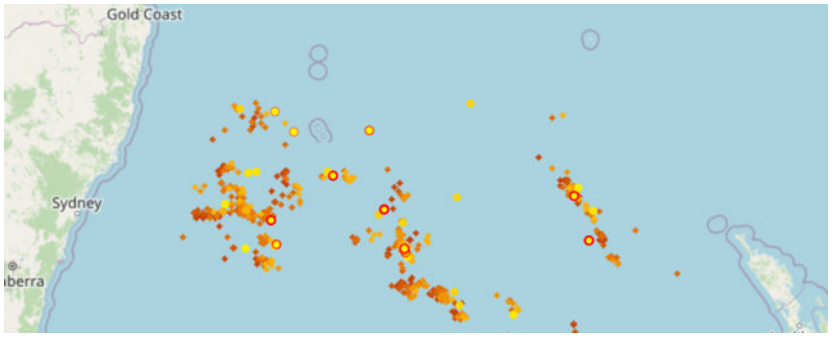
Propagation: When the Sun Declares War on HF

If you've ever watched the MUF collapse in real time, you know the sinking feeling that comes with it. During our operation, the MUF over Norfolk Island dropped to around 10 MHz mid-morning. Mid morning! That's supposed to be prime time for 15-metres and 10-metres. Instead, the ionosphere behaved like a tired intern who refused to lift anything above 30-metres. And as any DXer knows, 40- and 30-metres are not day-time long-haul DX bands.

Solar flares, elevated X-ray flux, geomagnetic storms — the whole buffet. The K-index spent more time in the "don't bother calling CQ" range than I care to remember. On the 3rd of June we woke to this news:

"GEOMAGNETIC STORM WARNING: NOAA forecasters are predicting strong geomagnetic storms this week as a rare 'anti-Hale' sunspot peppers Earth with strong solar flares. The X-class and near-X-class explosions are currently happening every 6 to 8 hours with CMEs expected to reach our planet beginning June 5th. Mid-latitude auroras are possible after the CMEs arrive. (Spaceweather.com)"

To add insult to injury, over the next 24 hours we were subjected to extensive thunder and lightning and heavy squalls of rain. All three stations were forced to shut down at various stages through the night and early morning.



Ionospheric Physics: Why Everything Went Wrong

As radio operators, we are also propagation nerds. So naturally, we spent a lot of time staring at solar data and muttering complaints and protests at the ether.

Here's the technical breakdown of the chaos:

1. D-Layer Absorption

   Solar flares increase X-ray radiation, which boosts D-layer ionization. The D-layer is the enemy of HF. It absorbs signals, especially on lower bands. During our operation, it was basically a sponge.

2. Geomagnetic Storms - F-Layer Depletion

   Geomagnetic disturbances disrupt the F-layer's electron density. This reduces MUF and makes long-distance propagation unreliable. Our midday 10 MHz MUF was a textbook example.

3. Solar Storms

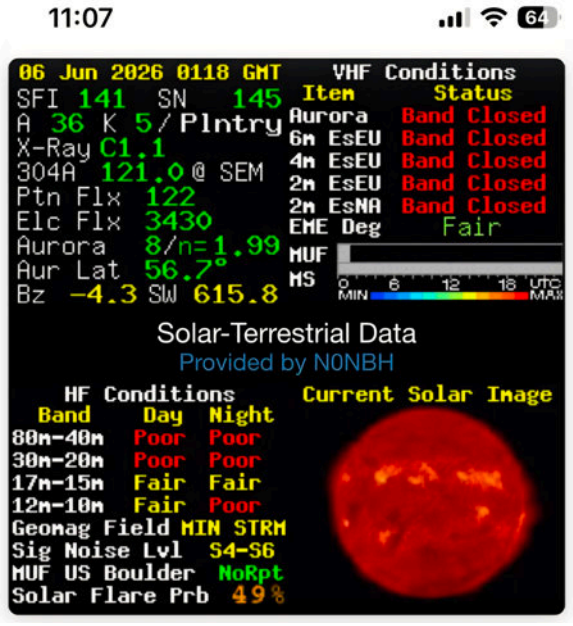
   Storms caused heavy QSB, frequency-selective fading, and general misery. FT8's narrow bandwidth, error correction and low signal reliability saved us on more than one occasion.

On the 6th of June we woke to more dismal news:

"GEOMAGNETIC STORM UNDERWAY: A G2-class (Moderate) geomagnetic storm is underway on June 5th as Earth moves through the wake of a CME that struck earlier today. There is a slight chance that the storm could intensify to category G3 (Strong) with mid-latitude auroras. Overall, though, this event is less intense than forecast models predicted, and aurora sightings will probably be restricted to high latitudes."

Here's what it meant in practice:

- 20-metres: SSB and CW were nearly useless. I called CQ for 20 minutes once and got nothing but my own echo in the headphones.
- 15-metres: Mostly dead, except for occasional FT8 openings.
- 10-metres: Sporadic-E (?) saved us with a few North American FT8 contacts.
- 40-metres: Became our bread-and-butter band.
- 30-metres: Surprisingly reliable.



- Those reliable overnight openings on 15- and 17-metres were missing in action – night shift literally became a graveyard shift.
- 160-metres: Worked better than expected, thanks to the doublet + MFJ tuner combo.

FT8 became our lifeline. I know some purists grumble about digital modes, but when the ionosphere is behaving like wet cardboard, FT8 is less a mode and more a survival strategy.

7th of June, 0300Z

We still enjoyed some good openings; it wasn't all doom and gloom. 20-metres starts to open. The VK3RASA RBN reports some EU stations. I get on the air for the first decent run since arriving here. For nearly two hours I enjoyed consistent two QSOs/minute into NA SP and EU LP. I happily handed the reins to Brenton at 0500Z, feeling a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that only comes following a good run with a reasonable well-ordered pileup.

Were conditions finally improving? If so, not for long.

Australasia

HF Communications Warning

Warning

(last updated 07 Jun 2026 05:25 UT)

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SUBJ: ASWFC PRELIMINARY HF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WARNING 26/53
ISSUED AT 2221UT/06 JUNE 2026
BY THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE WEATHER FORECASTING CENTRE.

Due to anticipated geomagnetic activity beginning mid 8-Jun UT
day, HF radio propagation conditions are expected to become degraded.
Maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region may become
depressed by up to 20% from late 8-Jun into 9-Jun.

DEGRADED HF PROPAGATION CONDITIONS EXPECTED
FROM 08-10 JUNE 2026
IF COMMS DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED TRY A LOWER FREQUENCY BAND
A MORE DETAILED HF WARNING WILL FOLLOW IF DEPRESSIONS EVENTUATE.
_____________________________________________________________
```

The sun subjected us to two CMEs and seven solar flares over the course of the twelve days of operation.

Operating Strategy: Adaptation Under Fire

Every day, we adjusted our operating strategy based on real-time propagation analysis, RBN reports, and on-air experience. It felt like playing chess against the sun — and the sun was cheating.

We prioritized:

- SSB whenever conditions were up to it
- CW at all other times, subject to propagation
- FT8 during the regular poor conditions
- 40- and 30-metres for reliability
- Opportunistic 160-metre operation
- Band agility to constantly test for the highest band
- Running three stations to maximize coverage
- Leveraging the Aurora's SDR capabilities for weak-signal work

Despite everything, we still managed just shy of 25,000 QSOs, and given the conditions, that felt like a miracle.

Island Life: The Human Side of the Chaos

When the bands were dead — which was often — some of us explored Lord Howe Island. We hiked, swam, flew, and even befriended a local wood hen that visited our operating site. This bird had no idea what HF propagation was, but it seemed deeply invested in our success. Some of the team were convinced it was our emotional support animal.

There's something surreal about alternating between battling the ionosphere and admiring a sub-tropical paradise. DXpeditions have a way of blending technical frustration with natural beauty.

In another first, every day at about 1630 local we met in the common room or courtyard for a happy hour. It was a great chance to tell stories, vent frustrations and share experiences from the various excursions many of us enjoyed. A selection of photos illustrates the non-radio activities and views of Lord Howe Island.

Conclusion: A DXpedition Defined by Resilience

Looking back, VJ2L wasn't defined by perfect conditions or effortless pileups. It was defined by resilience — technical, operational, and emotional. We used modern equipment, engineered robust antenna systems, adapted to brutal propagation, and still delivered thousands of contacts to operators around the world.

We fought the wind. We fought the sun. We fought the MUF. We still had fun and managed a fair QSO count — not because conditions were good, but because we were stubborn.

Lord Howe Island challenged us, but the team rose to the occasion. And in doing so, we proved once again that amateur radio is equal parts science, engineering, improvisation, and fun. And DXpeditions add detailed planning into the mix.

One of our main objectives was to compete in the DX Marathon and we made 162 points; not a bad effort for a twelve-day operation with such challenging propagation conditions. As a team, we worked well and had a thoroughly enjoyable two weeks.

(VK5XDX, KØBBC, VK6CQ, VK3HJ, VK5BJ, VK3QB, VK2PN)

The FlexRadio Aurora proved to be everything promised. It was quick, easy and light to pack, and without it, we could not have carried all our gear to the island on the Dash-8 aircraft. We would either have had one less station, or been forced to send gear on the ship two months in advance, and at considerable cost. Set-up was quick and it's only then you realise all the cables, accessories and additional weight that isn't required when the FlexRadio Aurora forms the centrepiece of the DXpedition.

In closing, we hope everyone who needed us was able to get us in the log. Special mentions go to Dick, N9EEE and Phil, VK3VB who both earned the 1,000 Miles per Watt Award for working VJ2L. Dick was running 5w and Phil 800mw; great work from both ops to persevere and get our attention. And even better that they're both CWops members.

And of course, thanks to the wives who joined us and made the two weeks that little bit more social and enjoyable.

Finally, thanks to FlexRadio for loaning us two FlexRadio Aurora 520M radios. To learn more about these amazing radios visit: https://www.flexradio.com/products/categories/aurora/

Closing: This very kind email and photo was received from Dick N9EEE:

> *"Thank you for acknowledging QRP DXers in your Lord Howe Island DXpedition by opening a window once per hour so QRPers could be heard, as well as creating a QRP-meaningful 1000 miles per watt award (it's beautiful). The signal generated from my ICOM 705 and EFHW antenna sloping from 6 to 40 feet made it to your Flex Aurora and DX Commander - 1,751 miles per watt (8,755 miles). Good ears, my friend.*
>
> *The plaque is now sitting adjacent to my QRP station."*

<

***73, Chris,* VK3QB**

QRV: CWops DX

by Bill Salyers, AJ8B, #1567

This month, our guest is Paul Young, K1XM, also known as CWops member #72. Here is a bit about our guest from the Contest Hall of Fame web page:

Inducted into the Contest Hall of Fame in May 2026.

First licensed as WN1OCU in 1971 at age 15, and later WA1OCU, Paul has spent 48 years participating in HF operating, radio engineering, and contesting. Shortly after moving to Hudson, MA, he established a station with his wife, Charlotte Richardson KQ1F. Since 1985, he has gone on a DXpedition every year, many around the CQWW CW contest. His love of diving and photography has taken him to many DX locations.

Apart from his DX activities, Paul is particularly well known for his involvement with SO2R boxes. He is the original designer of the hardware and software for the YCCC SO2R Box, the kit that made SO2R available and affordable. Over 700 were created. Paul also participated in the design and software for the SO2R Mini controller, an Arduino-based little box, with about 250 kits distributed. Almost 1,000 contesters use a K1XM box!

As part of the development for his controllers, Paul created OTRSP (Open Two Radio Switching Protocol), a simple set of commands and events for computer control of an SO2R device. Selflessly, Paul open-sourced the protocol, allowing other manufacturers, inventors, and software developers to implement it. Since then, it has become the de facto standard for communication between computers and their peripherals for SO2R and has been adopted by many software developers.

Paul's other technical projects have been similarly innovative for the modern contest station. Paul introduced the MOAS, or "Mother of All Switches" as a platform to completely automate station antenna switching at a very low cost. The MOAS is a serious piece of engineering. It can handle the most complex antenna switching functions, including key lines, lockouts, and multi-path wiring.With the passing of 9A5K, Paul assumed the mantle of lead software developer for DXLog, a contest logging program that is quite popular in Europe. Under Paul's guidance, the code base has been refined, bugs removed, and new features added. At the same time, the software's financial model was changed from paid to freeware. Paul has dedicated hundreds of hours to the DXLog project.

Paul has been an active member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club for more than 35 years. He spent 12 years as the editor of the Scuttlebutt, the club newsletter. Paul has also served as the Club's Vice President and attends nearly every YCCC meeting – often with a project in tow, or a talk to give."

You are CWops member #72. Who got you into CWops?

That would be Don, N1DG. He spread the word about CWops and I joined. Shortly after that I became a life member.

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

No. My love of CW started in the 1970s.

How has CW helped or enhanced your desire to BE DX instead of just working DX?

Being DX is easier on CW, especially if you are traveling with your station and antennas. I have brought an SB-200 as carry-on baggage, but most of the time I have been limited to 100 watts, often with whatever antennas I could bring with me.

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

It is frustrating at first but a lot of fun once you get it working.

Do you have any other comments about CW or CWops?

Not much to say. Everyone reading this already knows that CW doesn't require a big station or antennas and that it is a lot of fun.

***73, Bill* AJ8B**

The Chase – DXing CWops

The following CWops members are on DXpeditions:

Paul, G4PVM #2413 – 9T0MD – Democratic Republic of Congo

Rick, K5UR #2439 - VP5/K5UR – Turks and Caicos

New Members

by Trung Nguyen, W6TN, #1707

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

CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name
3976	KE8LQR*	Kate	3980	K2MJP*	Matt	3983	VE3NZ*	Ben
3977	WG4L*	Max	3981	KC4CR*	Dave	3984	IT9PPG	Giuseppe
3978	NP4E*	Jose	3982	VA3SP*	Mike	3985	KS4CR	Marty
3979	W4SSF*	Stan						

* Lifetime Member

Need Sponsors: M0UEL, DJ1MV, WB4WNO

Invitations Extended: none

(As of September 18, 2026)

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.

New Member Requirements:

CWops membership requires a valid Amateur Radio license and demonstrated proficiency in sending and receiving CW at 25 words per minute or faster, as judged by your nominator and sponsors.

To be considered, you need a current member to nominate you, plus three additional current members to sponsor you—each of whom must have made contact with you on the air at least twice within the preceding 12 months. This entire nomination process has to wrap up within five months. View our Membership page for more information.

Note: Only contacts with current CWops members count toward sponsorship.

Change of Contact Information:

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. If your callsign becomes inactive I can remove it, too. Then the roster will be accurate and current for our usage.

***73, Trung,* W6TN**

Membership Manager

Giving Back Update

by Rob Brownstein, K6RB #3

CWops' Giving Back (GB) program is meant to provide on-air QSO experience and practice for anyone who wants it. It was initially intended as a way for our CW Academy students to get some on-air experience. We all know that when there is activity on the bands, these days, it's usually a DXpedition pileup or a contest. Today's CW aspirants have had little chance to work others who are skilled at CW, operate at moderate speed, and are committed to helping. That's the mission of Giving Back. The GB volunteers get on the air at approximately 7 pm local time and seek out CQers, or call CQ, and engage in routine QSOs including some conversational tidbits. The operators' schedule appears on the next page.

Here are the August 2026 results (GB hosts are shown in **bold**):

GW2CWO	EA2BTN	DL1DUS	DL3PM	DK4AN	OK1GS	OH6LD	EA3CNO	HB9BFY
	G7LMY	G3MD	G0TUE	OM2ET	IU6MQO			
JF1LXO	JR9TVU	JE2OUK	K0RU	JH0NFJ(2)	JJ0SFV(2)	JE3DXP	KE7LOY	JG1BGT(3)
	K1WCW	JS1QIZ/1	JE7RMT	JJ0XSA	JE6JXD	KE7LOY	7K4TSL	JS2TGK(3)
	JN1FAO	R0LGR	JA4IIJ	JA2MEI	JL2SQK	JA4MRL	JK1TCE	JE2OUK
	JS2OVO/7	JR3RHI	HL1ABL	JN7DOR	JS1QIZ	JA1SUA	JH2UNG	JE1CTL
	JO1UFB	JI3DHY						
JG1UQD	JJ0SFV	HL1ABL	JS2TGK(2)	JG1BGT	JL2SQK	JI3DHY		
JJ1FXF	JI3DHY	BI4JCR	JA0FVU	R0LGR	JG1BGT	JK1PWT	7N1OEX	JE8KSR/1
JK1QYL	JS2OVO	JA4IIJ(2)	JE1LGY	JK1PWT	N6TI	JS2TGK(6)	JL1DZP	JG1BGT(3)
	R0LGR	JE9AST	JE2OUK	JK1IXZ	JA6SFH	JL2SQK(2)	JI3DHY(2)	JR2BOE
	JS1CII	JA1IMY	JI1CJJ	JF1LXO	JO1XGM/3	JI1EHJ	JL1RAP	
JM4AOA	HL5FAK	JA6PWF	JE6AJO	JF1WSK	JG1BGT	JI3DHY	JJ0XEQ	JR3RHI
	JS2TGK (2)	N6TI						
JO1DGE	JA4IIJ	JA7CYI	JE2OUK(2)	JG1BGT(4)	JH0NFJ	JH5ASR	JI3DHY(3)	JJ0SFV/QRP
	JJ0XEQ(2)	JJ3LXM	JK1TCE	JL2SQK(2)	JR6SBI(2)	JS2KNN	JS2TGK(2)	R0LGR
K1DW	AB0CD	K6DF	W6ED	KC6PGA	W9UZ	K5BFN	K5RRR	KE8UNW
	WB5DRG(2)		W0ITT	KC9HEK	N3BTM	W2YRL	K2HYD	KB4DZN
K7NJ	N6WAX	K6DF	N5FER	G4RMV	K6KOI	AG4T	K4KUS	WB5RTW
M0WDD	DL1DUS	EA3EYC	EI7HMB	G4HPH	G5RRR	IK1YEV	M0IYP	M0TJUG/
	W0NJA							
N9EEE	K6DF	KD9HTQ						
W8OV	N8DKH	KM4CU	KC2IXN	N6RC	AC5GL	PY3QN		
7L2VPL	VK5GG	JN3WRT/3	KE7LOY	JJ0SFV	JG1BGT	JL2SQK	JK1TCE	JA4MRL
	BI4PCK	W7QQQ	JF3WGG					
7N2XZB	JL2SQK	JS2TGK(5)	JG3VDU	JJ0SFV(2)	JI3DHY(3)	JE2OUK(2)	HL5FAK	JA6PWFJA4IIJ(2)
	JE9AST	R0LGR(2)	JK1TCE	JG7FYG	JA6SFH	JK1PWT	JN7DOR	JJ0XEQBI4JCR
	HL1ABL	BG2TFW	BI4PCK	JR6SBI	JA7BWV	BD6MM		

GIVING BACK SCHEDULE

7 PM Local Time

Operating Schedule: October through April 40m & 80m

May through September 40m & 20m

Frequencies: 14.035-14.039 | 7.035-7.039 | 3.535-3.539 | 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	JO1DGE JG1BGT							W2XS	W8OV			
TUE													
		7N2XZB JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
WED													
		7J1ATG							N8DD			N7DZ	
THU													
		7N2XZB JG1BGT JQ3FRX			SV2BBK				KV8Q	W9CWO	K7NJ		
FRI													
		JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO MØWDD					K6RB	
SAT													
		JJ1FXF JM4AOA JG1UQD							W5DT				
SUN													
		JJ1FXF JM4AOA 7L1VPL							W5DT				
	UTC+10	UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	UTC-4	UTC-5	UTC-6	UTC-7	UTC-10

CW Academy

Bob Carter, WR7Q #1423 and Roland Smith, K7OJL

Advisor Knowledge Sharing

There is an apparently well-kept secret tool for CWA advisors. I say “secret” because very few (three) advisors are taking advantage of it. It is called “Advisor Knowledge Sharing”. You must be a registered CWA advisor to access it. Just log into the advisor portal and scroll to the bottom of the page to find it.

> Advisor Knowledge Sharing
> Using this program, advisors can share their experiences and advice with other advisors.

This could be such a great resource for current and future advisors if we would all use it.

You will find tips on how other advisors handle:

- Copying and sending instruction
- End of semester tasks
- What equipment works well
- Induction (onboarding of students)
- How others organize their classes
- Help for students with special challenges
- Video conferencing topics

"I urge all advisors to take advantage of this resource. Please take the time to contribute by answering as many of the questions as possible. There is such a wealth of knowledge and different methods of advising out there. It should be wonderful if we could all share and learn from each other."

- Char Lewis, K8XCO #3543

Char also provided an interesting, recent CW contact:

“Don, N1DG, recently wrote about the decline of youth in ham radio, and I'd like to share a contact I made not long after reading it.

“I turned on the radio and was scanning for a strong signal when I heard someone calling 'CQ POTA' in CW. The sending wasn't fast, but the characters were well formed and the spacing was excellent. I answered, and we made the contact.

“Curious, I looked up the op's QRZ page. To my surprise, it was a 16-year-old YL who had only started learning CW this past January. I sent her an email praising her skill and put a QSL card in the mail.

“One contact doesn't reverse a trend. But if each of us takes the time to encourage an interest in CW in the young people we come across, we can ignite the spark — or fan the flame — one operator at a time.

“And the numbers may be better than we think. I looked back through the list of my former CWA students, and I'd estimate 40% of them were under the age of 40.

“CW is alive and well. It just needs a little encouragement.”

The Graduating Class of the Spring Semester for 2026:

BEGINNER (70)

John (F4MQH)
Ahmadi, Atthar (VE2PWX)
Alexander, Ewan (N7EWN)
Ames, Richard (VK2NRA)
Baiad, Ryan (KI5GZO)
Beam, Brodie (K5LEB)
Bisson Picard, Rock (VE2PIT)
Charboneau, Jim (KC1BB)
Clover, Cody (KE5MOG)
Crocker, Kelvin (G1ZSE)
Delap, Diane (K1OGQ)
Elwertowska, Agnieszka (SQ5EMA)
Estep, Bryan (KR4JBM)
Feagans, Tim (N6WAX)
Flaherty, Patrick (KK7KGP)
Fredette, Tim (N9WOF)
Gahagan, Todd (WA7U)
Gideon, Alan (K5AKG)
Good, William (KK7RYW)
Hancock, Denis (VK3SPI)
Hartnett, James (KZ4XL)
Haukoos, Chris (KE0CAL)
Hayward, Wayne (KM4OPN)
Heiman, David (KN6WNN)
Hendershot, James (N3KNN)
Hoy, Robert (VK3AUX)
Ireland, Stephen (VK3VM)
Karn, James (WA6YU)
King, David (KI5YDI)
Lewis, Andrew (AD2EQ)
Long, Russ (KK7QQO)
Macrury, Ewen (M8LYJ)
Malick, Rehan Younas (KJ5MBS)
Mastridge, Benjamin (KR4IJT)
Mcrae, Kenneth (NF6B)
Michalik, Mateusz (SN5WLF)
Millis, Michael (KN6YKN)
Mitchell, Tom (KE8YVH)
Odgers, Graeme (VK2UV)
Phillips, Charlotte (KM7FCN)
Plagmann, Linda (DO7RL)
Plumridge, Phil (G5XBD)
Pritchard, Mark (K4GVN)
Quigley, Conor (EI9JYB)
Ramsey, David (KF4AMZ)
Raney, David (K4DAR)
Roberts, Charles (AG4CR)
Rolwes, Jim (N0KDN)
Rose, Matt (G5MDR)
Rudloff, Todd (KI5HNX)
Sachnowski, Stefan
Salmon, Andy (VK3XKA)
Smith, Mark (VK2XMB)
Snyder, Neal (K9NRS)
Stancanelli, Giuseppe (IU0OYC)
Stevenson, Michael (KB0DDC)
Stunkard, Leslie (KD9ZMI)
Taymans, Bruno (ON1BT)
Teed, Brad (KM7DHO)
Thomas, Griffin
Traczyk, Mikołaj (SP5MST)

Valley, Michael (N1OVL)
Waldbrenner, Andreas (DB8UX)
Weber, Ira (N5OGW)
Wierzchowski, Marek (SP5HKQ)
Wright, Lynden (KG5KFD)
Wurm, Wolfgang (DL1WWE)
Yoksh, Kyle (K0KN)
Zimmer, Marc (KE2GWZ)
Zollo, Raynard (W2RAY)

FUNDAMENTAL (77)

Lori (YO5LNX)
Asmus, Edward (K8UKE)
Banyó belda, Ferran (EA5PL)
Biernacki, Grzegorz (SP5GB)
Boniowski, Grzegorz (SP9DKP)
Brown, Jim (W0RLD)
Caruso, Sal (WC6SAL)
Chapman, Lee (ZR6LC)
Chilcott, Steve (ZL1UHD)
Crowley, Darin (NY7H)
Davenport, Mike (ZL2MXD)
Dickerson, Russell (KN4HAE)
Dunthorne, Mick (M1CKD)
Eichhorn, Rob (VE7LR)
Esteban, Paco (EA3JGQ)
Faleni, Fabrizio (HB9HXH)
Ferrario, Agustin (DC4AR)
Filler, Forrest (KD2MZH)
Freyer, Jonathan (N8PMR)
Furtney, Dan (KM7DIX)
Garcia, Miguel Angel (KV3H)
Geddes, James (N4JX)
Good, Julie (K0JGL)
Hamby, David (M0DVV)
Harlow, John (N0ZC)
Harris, Cathy (W9SS)
Hemmens, Ian (M0KFH)
Holdford, Charlie (G3OTO)
Hutchinson, Eli (CWWOLF)
Hutchinson, Mark (N7CD)
Irgang, Howard (KJ5AVV)
Jackson, Robert (N1RWJ)
King, Chris (K3CBK)
Lape, Brandon (KD3CCN)
Lerner, Charles (KE9BNN)
Logan, Timothy (NZ7C)
Mahone, Terence (NM8A)
Martin, Marcos (LU3HDM)
Mckinley, Ed (W2EHH)
Mertes, Chuck (KD9DVB)
Minakov, George (KM6QYV)
Montagut, Xavier (EA5JVM)
Nakielski, Tomasz (SP5TEN)
Oliphant, Tom (K0BUL)
Palladino, Joseph (KA1JXY)
Pantaleon, Jose (K6HZR)
Perez, Abel (EA1FXG)
Petrosky, Francis (KE3LA)
Polla, Paolo (K1PAP)
Pritchard, Rob (G5RMP)
Rager, Ryan (AF4O)
Rice, Ericson (KO4DIT)
Ridolfo, Paolo (IV3LDU)
Rivas, Eric (AC2OK)
Rosen, Marc (KM7AZ)
Rubinkiewicz, Dariusz (SQ5VDR)
Ruppnig, Bibiana (DL8JC)
Santorowski, Bartosz (SQ6ILS)
Scott, Bill (WS5M)
Shingledecker, Arthur (KE9DIB)
Simard, Martial (VE6VOX)
Sims, Dave (KD8PMK)
Smith, Elly (KM7EVC)
Solà, Pere (EA3ICE)
Stacke, Jon (KF0RVT)
Stahm, Bill (AH6WG)
Turkowski, Wit (SP5WIT)
Vallance, Colin (N1CV)
Waide, John (W2DU)
Wallace, Paul (VK1OZ)
Watts, Gerry (VK3ZXC)
Weinert, Steve (K9ZW)
Weischedel, Joe (N3ZRW)
White, Keith (M0KTC)
Wood, Chris (GD6TWF)
Zeyner, Mario (DL4TI)
Zilles, Nikolaus (DD1MAT)

INTERMEDIATE (59)

Acacio, David (EA3IPX)
Aranda flores, Jordi (EA3IZQ)
Atkins, John (G0SDF)
Augustynek, Michał (SQ9ALW)
Bartocha, Marek (SP6OS)
Beauchamp, Del (WW2MI)
Bergmüller, Nils (DF7CW)
Boortz, Benjamin (DA1BB)
Brady, Bill (K0QG)
Branchfield, Mike (AI4AT)
Brinker, Christopher (K3AV)
Camillocci, Tony (KA3BPN)
Corbett, Calvin (VE7CTE)
Croon, Gregory (WB2O)
Danter, Kenneth (N4VE)
Davis, Jerry (NA3D)
Dolny, Przemyslaw (SQ9AOI)
Dörschel, Holger (DL9HDA)
Drudis-sole, Gali (EA3ISL)
Ebersberger, Lucas (DA1EE)
Ehlers, Todd (AI5ZI)
Fishpool, Tony (G4WIF)
Hachey, Paul (KC4YRV)
Hagan, Sam (K2NE)
Hering, Marc (KE2MT)
Jewell, Paul (MW7PAJ)
Jurczyk, Piotr (SQ9OKG)
Klimczyk, Marek (SP9TKW)
Lanas, Julio (EA6APL)
Leary, Mike (K7MSO)
Legdeur, Rudy (PD1RDY)
Lopez, Joan pere (EA3AGK)
Lorenzon, Marco (IN3EQD)
Lutherer, Oliver (DK5OL)
Lyons, Jeff (W6AO)
Mahaffey, Joe (W4JOD)
Mason, Allen (K6AGW)
Mclean, Doug (VE3UXJ)
Mcneal, Jim (KO5G)
Metzler, Christina (K3CI)
Miasojedow, Pawel (SP5DNA)
Mohneke, Andre (DL6HBQ)
N, Praveen (VU2WH)
Nair, P r kamalprakash (VU27KN)
Nevins, Byron (NB6D)
Price, Tim (G4YBU)
Quillen, Paul (N4LCD)
Rivera, Tomas (NE5K)
Rodriguez, Frank (C31FR)
Romagnano, Stefano (IV3JKE)
Sciborowski, Marcin (SP5ORI)
Skrzypkowski, Pawel (SQ2IPS)
Smith, Bill (KQ1S)
Smith, Kory (N3ZKI)
Voight, Darryl (K2XV)
West, James (W2JJW)
White, Kristie (W7MIX)
Williams, Shane (N0QLR)
Wirth, Florian (DL7FLO)

Advanced (40)

Andersen, Eric (N4JP)
Anding, Jeff (KG5EED)
Anjiolino, Eduardo (PY2MP)
Baibakis, John (SV1PIZ)
Balan, Dileep (DL2AJ)
Bates, Marlin (N6MIV)
Bishopp, Richard (KD2UBJ)
Bosmans, Erik (ON5AI)
Bourne, Chris (G4ETK)
Burke, Art (KD3EZ)
Campbell, Jim (VE1KM)
Countess, Ken (KN2D)
Cronin, Suzanne (K5UUU)
Cunnington, Nick (G5RRR)
Donahue, John (N1JD)
Durovic, Ilia (VK5ISO)
Fisher, Carolanne (N0RNM)
Gracey, Kiersten (K1KIG)
Harvey, Tim (VA3UZ)
Ilczuk, Michal (SQ2MO)
Johnson, Steve (KN6HI)
Karypidis, Stavros (SV7BVM)
Kessels, Phillip (DL9PK)
King, Roger (M0LKR)
Konstantinos, Adamos (SV4RTG)
Koukoutsis, Vasilios (SV1JMC)
Maclean, Glenn (WA7SPY)
Mcneill, David (N7WMN)

Nik, Dimitris (SV6TAC)
Papciak, Doug (KI4VDU)
Pleace, Eric (KO4ZSD)
Pouli, Aikaterini (SV2TCC)
Rife, Tim (KK9T)
Santos, Bill (KN6UDK)
Stronk, Lance (KK4DX)
Sulonen, Kevin (N7KV)
Tosh, Matt (AE0XR)
Van Eckert-Schoof, Johanna (DJ5YL)
Wilson, Edward "Ed" (W4EMW)
Wright, John (M0RTU)

ADVISORS (38)

Bruce Blain (K1BG)
William Bradley (GI5RSS)
Bob Carter (WR7Q)
Chris Chapman (VK3QB)
Maciej Chmielewski (SP5IDC)
Jeffrey Coleson (KE8NJW)
Jean Consorti (AD2EK)
Jim Curley (KE8EON)
Hans Eichel (DK1WB)
Mikel Forcada (EA5IYL)
A. Chris Fristad (KT9N)
Roy Godden (KK6M)
Krzysztof Gorka (SP5GDX)
Lutz Gutheil (DM6EE)
Marcus Harton (N3VO)
Kevin, Hedgepeth (NB7O)
Christian Herter (KF7WX)
Uwe Hiller (DK3WW)
Tomasz Krasuski (SQ5TK)
Bill Leahy (K0MP)
Charlene Lewis (K8XCO)
Juan Francisco Lladó Sabater (EC6PG)
Steve Marquie (W8TOW)
Giannis Martsoukakis (SV1PMQ)
David Mcarthur (M0WDD)
John Merkel (AJ1DM)
Ken Mitchell (KD2KW)
Tony Pattinson (VE2KM)
Steven Robbs (WJ0C)
Gregg Robinson (KA7MDM)
Carlton Severance (W4IF)
Roland Smith (K7OJL)
Joe Spencer (KK5NA)
Buz Tarlow (AC6AC)
Josep Torres (EA6BF)
Mark Tyler (K5GQ)
David Zatopek (KT5V)

CW Academy Training Sessions

Four Levels	**Three Semesters**
Beginner	January/February
Fundamental	May/June
Intermediate	September/October
Advanced	

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**

CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch, VE3KI, #783

At the time I am writing this (just before the deadline, as usual), there are discussions going on on both the CWops and N1MMLoggerPlus groups at groups.io about self-spotting in the CW Open.

Self-spotting is the practice of posting spots of your own call sign to the DX Cluster network, in effect announcing the frequency you are CQing on. At one time, this was almost universally prohibited in contests, or at least considered unethical. In CW, however, the advent of CW Skimmers and the development and expansion of the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN - https://www.reversebeacon.net/) have rendered such a prohibition almost meaningless in the eyes of those who use one of the many cluster nodes that send RBN spots. If you are located in North America or Europe and have a strong enough signal to be able to contemplate establishing and holding a CQ frequency in a contest or CWT, the mere act of calling CQ will result in your call sign being automatically spotted by multiple RBN skimmers starting within a few seconds of your first couple of CQs. Probably at least partially triggered by this and other developments, starting in 2022 the ARRL removed the prohibition on self-spotting from its contest rules, and since that time a number of other contests have made similar rule changes. This is still a controversial subject, however, and many contests, including the highly popular CQ WW and CQ WPX contests, continue to prohibit self-spotting.

Contest logging software has also had to adapt to the changing rules landscape. The software I am most familiar with, N1MM Logger+, provides a macro that will self-spot your call sign automatically every 10 minutes or so while you are calling CQ. However, this macro is only enabled for those contests whose rules explicitly allow self-spotting; in other contests it does nothing. This requirement for an explicit rule is a deliberate policy decision by N1MM and the N1MM development team (of which I am a member). Among other things, it ensures that if anyone self-spots from N1MM+ in a contest where self-spotting is not explicitly allowed, they will have to do so intentionally, not inadvertently. That is, even if someone incorporates the self-spotting macro in a standard function key message file that they use for multiple contests and forgets (or “forgets”) to remove it for a contest with a "no self-spotting" rule, blame cannot be laid on the N1MM+ program for making it too easy to self-spot unintentionally.

Actually, it has always been possible to self-spot with N1MM+, albeit not automatically. You can do this by entering your own call sign, pressing the “Spot It” button or hot-key and then wiping your call sign. Using the program’s key remapping feature, it is even possible (and quite simple) to program an unused hot-key combination (such as Shift+S) to do all of this with a single keystroke. Using such a procedure or keystroke once every 10 minutes or so during a run would produce the same end result as the automated macro. The difference would be that if you were caught violating a “no self-spotting” rule, you couldn’t believably claim that you were not aware that you were self-spotting, since this method requires a deliberate action on your part to make each self-spot happen.

What does this have to do with the CWTs?

Well, requests have been submitted to both Bruce N1LN (CW Open manager) and myself as CWT manager to change the rules for our two contests ("contests" in quotation marks for the CWTs) to explicitly allow self-spotting.

Speaking specifically for the CWTs (and not for the CW Open), our rules don't say anything about self-spotting, nor indeed anything about spotting at all. We don't have separate entry categories for assisted and unassisted operating. The only CWT awards are for participation and take no account of the use of spotting assistance one way or the other.

I am quite sure that a large number of CWT participants do use cluster spots (since spotting assistance is not prohibited), and many of them undoubtedly make use of RBN spots. It is also likely that self-spotting (using the non-automated method) is also already taking place in CWTs, since there is no explicit prohibition in the rules. Without log submission, there would be no practical means of enforcing a "no self-spotting" rule even if one existed.

There are quite a few people who for various reasons still do not use skimmer spots, so self-spotting could reach a wider audience than relying solely on the RBN. It might even be felt to be in our overall interest to encourage self-spotting from at least one group of participants, namely those located at great distances from the majority of our participants in North America and Europe, often in places where the coverage from spotting skimmer (and other) stations is much thinner. These people sometimes have a hard time being heard and making contacts in the CWTs, in part at least because almost everyone in the CWTs in NA and EU is so busy making contacts with large numbers of loud nearby stations that they may fail to notice the rare spots and signals from more distant DX locations. Perhaps encouraging participants in parts of the world far away from North America and Europe to self-spot might make it a bit easier for them to join in the fun more fully.

If there is general agreement to make the de facto use of self-spotting in CWTs more formal, thus enabling automated self-spotting from N1MM+, I would be prepared to make a change to the published rules for the CWTs at https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/ to the effect that the use of spots including self-spotting is permitted in the CWTs. If you feel strongly about this one way or the other, drop me a line at ve3iay@gmail.com and let me know so I can take that into consideration before deciding whether to take any such action.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich **VE3KI**

CWops 'Tests

Wednesday	**Thursday**
1300z	0300z
1900z	0700z

CWops Member Awards

by Bill Gilliland, WØTG, #1873

Monthly Update

During August, two additional members submitted logs, increasing the number of active participants in the awards program to 221.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of July 2026 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 152 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) K3WW, (5) N5RZ, (6) KO4VW, (7) F6HKA, (8) OM2VL, (9) NA8V and (10) KC7V.** The separation between first place and tenth place is 519 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of July 2026 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 445 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) K3WW, (4) N5RZ, (5) KY4GS, (6) OM2VL, (7) KC7V, (8) NA8V, (9) K04VW and (10) WT9U.** The separation between first place and tenth place is 1818 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of July 2026 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3585 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) W1RM and (10) OM2VL**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 6712 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more **DXCC** entities remained at **104** this month.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops **WAS** remained at **293** 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 September 1, 2026, we have 221active 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 submit 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. 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 November 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 November 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 https://cwops.telegraphy.de/. 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 tools at https://cwops.telegraphy.de/scores-by-call. Instructions and an instructional video are provided on the Awards Tool website. And 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

For more information on the CWops Awards Program, please go to https://cwops.org/contact-us/awards/, and address any questions or comments to cwopscam@w0tg.com.

Award rankings appear on the next page.

***73, Bill,* W0TG**

Here are the Top 100 ACA, ACMA and CMA QSO totals as of September 1, 2026.

ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1681
2	AA3B	1529
3	KY4GS	1446
4	K3WW	1372
5	N5RZ	1318
6	KO4VW	1310
7	F6HKA	1275
8	OM2VL	1189
9	NA8V	1187
10	KC7V	1162
11	KG9X	1159
12	N7US	1158
13	W4CMG	1138
14	WT9U	1136
15	K7QA	1131
16	N5TJ	1056
17	K3QP	1048
18	KT5V	1015
19	W8FN	991
20	AA2IL	983
21	DL6KVA	960
21	K1AJ	960
22	NA4J	955
23	K3JT	952
24	K1VUT	949
25	EA1X	919
26	VE3TM	916
27	EA6EJ	912
28	K6NR	911
29	K9WX	908
30	WS7L	888
31	KC3M	877
32	VK2GR	876
33	N5KD	873
34	WA2LMC	853
35	W0UO	842
36	K1SM	837
37	KM4FO	836
38	KW1X	835
39	NJ3K	828
40	N4DW	808
41	WN7S	807

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	4731
2	KR2Q	4286
3	K3WW	3828
4	N5RZ	3698
5	KY4GS	3384
6	OM2VL	3197
7	KC7V	3114
8	NA8V	3097
9	KO4VW	2933
10	WT9U	2913
11	K7QA	2849
12	F6HKA	2763
13	KG9X	2691
14	N7US	2587
15	W4CMG	2502
16	N5TJ	2361
17	DL6KVA	2281
18	K1VUT	2235
19	EA6EJ	2158
20	K1AJ	2123
21	EA1X	2016
22	NA4J	2010
23	AA2IL	2003
24	WS7L	1980
25	W8FN	1975
26	K6NR	1920
27	KT5V	1877
28	K9WX	1841
29	W0UO	1768
30	K3JT	1739
31	KW7Q	1725
32	KC3M	1692
33	N4DW	1688
34	WA2LMC	1684
35	VE3TM	1678
36	KM4FO	1613
37	N5XE	1592
38	N5KD	1575
39	K3QP	1573
40	N2UU	1561
41	VK2GR	1559
42	W0VX	1554

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	15596
2	K3WW	12011
3	KR2Q	11178
4	N5RZ	11150
5	N5ZO	10698
6	DL6KVA	10621
7	NA8V	10189
8	F6HKA	9767
9	W1RM	9741
10	OM2VL	8884
11	VE3KI	8407
12	KG9X	8390
13	KC7V	8361
14	K7QA	8314
15	N7US	8202
16	N5AW	7849
17	W9ILY	7786
18	WT9U	7715
19	KY4GS	7512
20	N4DW	7390
21	K1VUT	7368
22	W0VX	7272
23	K3JT	7167
24	N5TJ	7054
25	K9WX	6975
26	K6NR	6638
27	W4WF	6571
28	N1DC	6405
29	SM6CUK	6360
30	WT3K	6304
31	N2UU	6289
32	KO4VW	6264
33	WN7S	6232
34	K4IU	6157
35	W8FN	6015
36	EA1X	5888
37	AA5JF	5870
38	9A1AA	5838
39	VE3TM	5813
40	W0UO	5773
41	NJ3K	5639
42	NA4J	5575

ACA

42	W9ILY	777
43	F5SGI	769
44	KW7Q	767
45	W4WF	759
46	N2UU	749
47	KR3E	745
48	N1DC	734
49	DF7TV	726
50	K5OHY	719
51	K9CW	716
51	W1RM	716
52	K3ZA	714
53	N5XE	708
54	W0VX	707
55	N5AW	701
56	K4TZ	683
57	WU6P	679
58	SM6CUK	670
59	W9CF	665
60	K1TR	660
61	W5AL	658
62	AA5JF	654
63	EA6BF	651
63	VE9KK	651
64	N9FZ	643
65	VE3KIU	640
66	EA3NO	639
67	W6AYC	636
68	N2EIM	634
69	WE4AUB	619
70	KV8Q	610
71	K4IU	606
72	K4PQC	597
73	KK0U	584
73	N5ER	584
74	KC4WQ	574
75	K4GM	562
75	WB2FKO	562
76	NE2V	557
77	ZS1C	556
78	NE5A	555
79	VE3KI	551
80	W3WHK	550
81	K0RX	535
82	KY0Q	528

ACMA

43	K9CW	1503
44	WN7S	1498
45	NJ3K	1446
46	KW1X	1438
47	W9ILY	1428
48	F5SGI	1416
48	N5AW	1416
49	W9CF	1389
50	K1SM	1382
51	EA6BF	1369
52	W4WF	1360
53	SM6CUK	1333
54	AA5JF	1309
55	WU6P	1301
56	W5AL	1298
57	N1DC	1297
58	K3ZA	1232
59	K1TR	1206
60	W6AYC	1205
60	K4IU	1205
61	DF7TV	1194
62	KR3E	1185
63	K4TZ	1180
64	N5ER	1163
65	W1RM	1162
66	VE3KIU	1156
67	K4PQC	1145
68	WE4AUB	1120
69	EA3NO	1117
70	VE9KK	1090
71	DJ5CW	1079
72	WB2FKO	1071
73	K5OHY	1064
74	ZS1C	1059
75	N9FZ	1037
76	KY0Q	1016
77	KV8Q	997
78	M0RYB	984
79	KC4WQ	965
80	K4GM	963
81	VE3KI	946
82	W0TG	938
83	NE2V	932
83	W3WHK	932
84	G3NKC	930

CMA

42	G4BUE	5575
43	K1SM	5570
44	AC6ZM	5544
45	K1AJ	5512
46	N5XE	5489
47	AA2IL	5486
48	GW0ETF	5332
49	KT5V	5191
50	WS7L	5160
51	VK2GR	5089
52	K3QP	5083
53	F6JOE	5007
54	W4CMG	4960
55	WA4JUK	4946
56	DF7TV	4934
57	K4GM	4927
58	DM6EE	4868
59	EA6BF	4853
60	OK1RR	4790
61	DJ5CW	4672
62	KC4WQ	4667
63	KM4FO	4621
64	VE3MV	4618
65	OZ3SM	4616
66	N5KD	4594
67	W6AYC	4589
68	F5SGI	4528
69	KY0Q	4383
70	KW7Q	4371
71	EA6EJ	4335
72	WS1L	4288
73	WU6P	4279
74	W0TG	4268
75	G4PVM	4244
76	AF5J	4163
77	KV8Q	4147
78	K0TC	4140
79	KK0U	4139
80	W3WHK	4116
81	W2CDO	4081
82	NE5A	4080
83	NE2V	4075
84	KR3E	4059
85	M0RYB	4047
86	N1EN	4039

ACA

83	N3CKI	527
84	DJ5CW	515
85	M0RYB	510
86	WT3K	500
87	KB8GAE	485
88	W2VM	481
89	HB9ARF	475
90	SM0HEV	469
91	LY2MM	466
92	WA4JUK	461
93	NB7O	459
94	KM4JEG	457
95	KC3MAL	456
96	KC9IL	453
97	W7LG	452
98	G3NKC	437
99	K1RF	433
100	W0TG	432

ACMA

85	WS1L	926
86	LY2MM	896
87	KK0U	874
88	N3CKI	856
89	KC3MAL	851
90	SM0HEV	837
91	K0RX	805
92	AF5J	796
93	WA5RML	790
94	HB9ARF	787
95	K1RF	771
96	SP7OGP	769
97	NB7O	766
98	W2VM	744
99	SP4JFR	742
100	KM4JEG	738

CMA

87	KC3M	3927
88	SM0HEV	3852
89	K4TZ	3804
90	N3CKI	3786
91	HB9ARF	3728
92	K3ZA	3691
93	KW1X	3623
94	K2YR	3469
95	4X6GP	3400
96	G3NKC	3381
97	G3LDI	3373
98	W9CF	3351
99	W5AL	3326
100	IT9VDQ	3323

SC

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: The Art of Conversational CW

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, #1418

Dog Days of Summer

Summertime has traditionally been slow for ham radio. So, it's no wonder that the number of reports for August are a bit down. On the plus side, though, we have three new CWops reporting their QTX scores: K4MW, KD2MZH, and NU4J. Welcome, guys.

Personally, I was out of town teaching ham radio classes in Las Vegas and New York City for much of the first two weeks of August, so that's why my numbers are way down this month. Without the three QTX QSOs with Dave, ND4K, my numbers would have been abysmal. I did manage to have a great time in New York with my wife, though.

September has started out a little better than August. Here's looking forward to many ragchews this fall!

Finally, let me remind you all that you can still submit reports for any month in 2026. It won't the monthly column, but your reports will be included in the annual report in January 2027.

73, Dan **KB6NU**

AA0YY: Even with poor conditions, still manage to enjoy plenty of ragchews.

K4MW: 19h 51m of QTX QSOs this month, 5h 28m of mini-QTX. Thanks to all.

K8XCO: Only a couple this month but usually my QTX QSOs are with someone I already know...this month I had a 24 minute QSO with a stranger and it was a lot of fun.

K9OZ: Despite the crummy band conditions a good month for me rag chewing. It was too hot to go outside, so spent more time in the shack.

KD2MZH: I think the longest rag i have had this month is about 16 minutes. This is the first time I am logging my ragchews. I never thought to do that as a student over the last two semesters. I will do so moving forward. lots of fun. thank you.

KF9VV: I tried using a 100 W rig camping. It was a success! Will be camping much of September and operating from the field when traveling.

KG5IEE: Air time was severely limited this month due to home renovations so QTX numbers are down.

KK7D: I had a 70-minute ragchew with K0RU. Very enjoyable chat and we had fun working some QRQ up to 45 wpm. Conditions this month resulted in more mQTX QSOs with plenty of QSB.

N0BM: Had a great QSO with a ham returning to the air after a 15-year absence. You could hear the improvement in his sending by the 25 minute mark. Lots of fun.

N2DA: Nice ragchews, mainly with old sked buddies, and Tim N5IIT joining one of the CW group skeds. Topics included a few good summer vacation stories.

N7HCN: I spent most of August on a combine harvesting grain. Ragchewing is much less work, and I plan to get back to it soon.

N8AI: Had a 15 min chat with WA4CHQ, who crewed on tall ship Godspeed from London to Jamestown in 1985. My male ancestor 12 generations ago made that trip as a cabin boy in 1630 and got off the ship.

NU4J: Good convos. Good trip to Huntsville Hamfest. Got a good new 4-land callsign.

VE3WH: I was having an evening QSO with my friend Bill AA0RQ using our bugs, During the conversation I realized that I had been talking to his son Ben KC4MJB/M using a straight key, in the morning. Once you get into a ragchew, you just never know where it is going to take you.

W3WHK: Nice chat with Sten SF7YT, solid copy at 579 on 20m.

WG9P: This month I completed the restoration of a Lionel J-36 bug manufactured in 1942 for the war effort. It is a joy to use and brings back memories of my Elmer, K9IWN who was in the Merchant Marine during WW2

WS1L: Chatted about DX with Don, WB6BEE and Don, W4BR.

N9EEE: Had a nice ragchew with my fellow local club member, POTA partner, and former CW Academy student, KD9HTQ. He put a smile on my face about 20 minutes into our QSO when he told me he was QRP.

QTX - August 2026

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
VE3WH	48	KF9VV	35	KB6NU	18	N7HCN	9	NU4J	2
N8AI	42	AA0YY	27	N2DA	12	KG5IEE	7	W8OV	2
K4MW	38	KK7D	26	KR2Q	11	N0BM	4	GW0ETF	1
WG9P	36	KY4GS	22	WS1L	11	AB0WW	3	K8XCO	1
K9OZ	35	ND4K	22	W1SIM	10	K8WWS	3		

mQTX - August 2026

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	45	AA0YY	12	ND4K	10	N0BM	6	K8WWS	1
N8AI	35	KR2Q	12	WS1L	10	NU4J	4	K8XCO	1
K4MW	24	VE3WH	12	KD2MZH	9	W8OV	4	W3WHK	1
KK7D	19	G4KKU	10	GW0ETF	6	WE5J	3	WG9P	1
KF9VV	18	KB6NU	10	KG5IEE	6	AB0WW	2		

QTX - Total 2026

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
VE3INE	731	WS1L	151	K4MW	38	N9FZ	14	WB3EGD	3
AA0YY	354	KG5IEE	105	KN5EE	36	K8XCO	13	KF6NCX	2
N7HCN	315	W1SIM	104	AE4GS	29	AA3TZ	11	NU4J	2
N8AI	306	N2DA	92	K8WWS	27	N0BM	11	KE7IR	1
WG9P	284	KR2Q	76	DG5CW	26	N3JT	8	KM4JEG	1
WA4IAR	281	AJ1DM	74	AB0WW	24	K6DGW	7	PE2V	1
K9OZ	206	G4KKU	59	W8OV	22	N5LB	7	SV2BBK	1
VE3WH	199	ND4K	59	N9EEE	20	GW0ETF	6		
KB6NU	184	KC0VKN	58	K2MZ	16	W3WHK	5		
KY4GS	183	KK7D	54	DK9HE	14	WE5J	5		
KF9VV	155	K8UDH	44	KW4NJA	14	G3EEC	3		

mQTX - Total 2026

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	405	G4KKU	78	AJ1DM	23	N7HCN	13	AA3TZ	5
AA0YY	261	VE3WH	73	AB0WW	22	K8XCO	12	KM4JEG	5
N8AI	241	GW0ETF	63	KB4DE	22	AE4GS	11	KE7IR	4
WS1L	197	DG5CW	47	ND4K	21	K8UDH	10	NU4J	4
KB6NU	124	VE3INE	44	W8OV	21	N3JT	10	PE2V	4
KF9VV	124	KK7D	38	WE5J	21	SV2BBK	10	W1SIM	2
WA4IAR	107	N9FZ	29	N0BM	20	K2MZ	9	W3WHK	2
KG5IEE	95	KW4NJA	28	N9EEE	19	K8WWS	9	KF6NCX	1
KR2Q	94	WG9P	27	G3EEC	17	KD2MZH	9		
KC0VKN	82	K4MW	24	K6DGW	13	DK9HE	7		

My Story: New Member Introductions

compiled by Tim Gennett, K9WX #1462

William "Bill" Santos, KN6UDK, #3948

It was a great honor to become a member of CWops. I am very grateful to Joe KK5NA for nominating me, and to Kevin NB7O, Gordon AA7TQ, Jeremy NJ6Q, and Jim N7US for sponsoring me!

I was always very interested in science and tech. I built a crystal radio as part of a 4-H electrical program and soon constructed a Heathkit AM/FM receiver. I had several friends that were hams, but I didn't have the opportunity to get a license myself. Growing up on a dairy farm, there were plenty of opportunities to learn about mechanics, plant and animal biology, weather, and hard work. While feeding the dairy cows every night, my trusty AM GE transistor radio kept me in touch with music and news of the day. Model rocketry was also possible, given ample open land for launches on the farm. I continued to pursue science and math in school and developed a strong interest in music, performing on the trumpet, keyboards, viola, and voice. Summer jobs while in school included picking peaches and melons, working in fast food, stacking boxes at a fruit packing shed and a cannery, operating a Caterpillar loader, parking cars, and chauffeuring a stretch Lincoln limo!

I graduated from college with a double major in music and chemistry. I attended medical school and became a physician, board certified in anesthesiology. Despite my busy practice, I managed to pursue computer programming, winemaking, woodworking, and astronomy as hobbies. I am blessed with a truly amazing wife and two great kids and have enjoyed raising them, supporting them, and continuing to interact with them as adults more than anyone can know. They are now starting families of their own with genuinely admirable spouses.

Around 2015 I got back into kit building and made several tube audio amps, preamps, headphone amps, and other electronics projects, which led to me becoming an amateur radio operator. Dave N7RK, a tube dealer in Arizona, suggested I get my ticket when I mentioned my childhood interest in radio. I soon got my Tech, General, and Extra. I became very active on FM and SSB nets and joined the local radio clubs: El Dorado County ARC and Sierra Foothills ARC. I learned much from Bob W1RH, Alan W6WN, Tony W6QA (first person in my log), Jay KE6GLA, JR K6LBP, and Brian AI6US of the Coffee Break Net.

I soon realized many fellow hams had been required to be proficient in CW. As I investigated, I discovered the rich history of CW and Morse code. As a very efficient mode that can "get through just about any conditions," I saw the huge role it played in world history and developed great respect for CW operators' skills. I learned that it is an extremely popular mode today. Reading QRZ pages of some radio-active colleagues, I noticed CWops and CW Academy were frequently mentioned.

With essentially zero knowledge of code, I decided to jump in and sign up for a class.

I was extremely fortunate to be placed in advisor Kevin NB7O's beginner class along with co-advisors Gordon AA7TQ and Jeremy NJ6Q. Their approach, rich in information and encouragement, really resonated with me. I learned a ton. By the end of the class eight weeks later, I was actively online hunting POTA and working the K1USN SST. Finally gathering courage, I activated a park myself. (Thank you for your patience and good humor all who answered my CQ!) POTA continues to be a big part of my activity on CW, and I am very thankful for the contacts, experience of nature, and the practice it has offered.

I went on to take Gregg KA7MDM's fundamental and Bruce K9OZ's intermediate classes. I learned a lot from both of them and am grateful for the time and knowledge they imparted. I still meet weekly on Zoom with some of my fellow students from those classes to practice CW.

I was a bit apprehensive about taking the advanced class, but my advisor, Joe KK5NA, put me at ease right away. I learned so much during those two months due to Joe's easygoing approach and vast knowledge of radio and CW operations. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in his class and was blessed by my fellow students. They are a great group!

In summary, my experience with CWops has been nothing but positive. I've gone from a "Three Stooges" knowledge of Morse code (Google it, it will make you laugh!) to being actively online communicating, contesting, and constantly improving my copying and sending. It has really enriched my life, and I look forward to sharing CW with many others going forward!

Maggie Flowers, KE2AIZ, #3955

My name is Maggie KE2AIZ, and I am 11 years old. I have a General Class license (not for long--I am working on upgrading).

My ham radio journey started when my older sisters decided to get their license. I, not to be left out, pestered dad to let me try for it as well. A few months later, we were out of Rochester Institute of Technology (where the testing session was held) with our licenses in hand. A few months after that, we decided to get our General license as well. Later that year we went to the Hamvention for the first time! While we were there, my sister built a CW oscillator. I started practicing with it in the tent, on the bus and finally at the hotel. At the end of the day, I had learned how to spell out (in reasonable spacing) my callsign and part of my name. I also met Katie KE8LQR at the Begali Keys station at Dayton. She recommended the LICW club to help me learn CW better.

A few weeks after we got home, I started practicing CW in earnest. A little bit after that, I joined the LICW kids' classes to help me continue learning CW. After a few classes, I made my first CW contact! As I became interested in contesting, I started doing the K1USN SSTs. In January (2025) my father was preparing to op at a multi op with Jeff W2FU for NAQP CW. I asked dad what it was like, and he started sending me exchanges. It was just like the SST, but faster! We started at 20 wpm like the SST, and I was still (mostly) copying exchanges up to 30-35 wpm. I was able to head-copy most of the names and states. Dad asked Jeff if I could tag along, and they even let me make a few QSOs. After that I started doing the MSTs, and eventually CWTs to push my speed up. During all this I was improving my typing skills, which is immensely helpful when contesting!

As of now, I am working on improving my conversational CW skills, doing more CWTs, studying for my Extra Class license, and pushing my speed up for the next multi op! It is a real honor to be a CWops member now!

Jose Lugo, NP4E, #3978

It is a true honor to be accepted as a member of CWops.

My interest in radio started at a young age with a RadioShack CB setup. Years later, my good friend Dany (WP4F) introduced me to amateur radio and Morse code, guiding me through earning my Amateur Extra license. After a brief break from the hobby, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico; in the aftermath, Dany (WP4F) and Oz (KP3N) introduced me to Parks on the Air (POTA), reigniting my passion and getting me active on the bands again.

Soon after, Oz got me hooked on CW contesting. Thanks to the constant coaching and camaraderie from a great group of friends and operators—Dany (WP4F), Oz (KP3N), Eric (NP3A), Manu (WP4TZ), Nomar (NP4H), and Jose (KP4JRS)—I continue sharpening my CW speed and contest skills. I am still working on mastering head copy, but I am putting in the practice and making steady progress every day.

I look forward to meeting everyone on the air, exchanging numbers in the CWTs, and contributing to this wonderful community.

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