



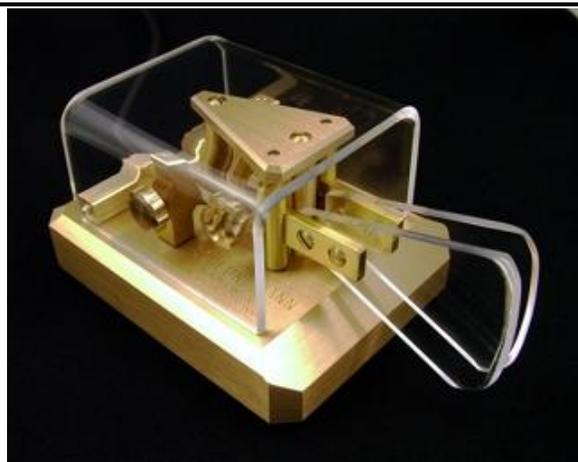
Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

June

2014

Issue No. 53



Scheunemann Morsetasten Morse Dirigent

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)

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

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President's Message



May is always a busy month for me. I start out by flying to Falls Church VA for the CW Enthusiast's Weekend, and then two weeks later, flying to Dayton for the annual Dayton

Hamvention. This year was no exception.

The CW Enthusiast's Weekend is always enjoyable. The Friday evening pizza bash is a great way to kick things off. Saturday's brunch at Jim's and Nina's QTH allows us all to mingle and chat. And, Saturday night's dinner caps it all off. I would truly like to see more of us there, and perhaps with the new schedule in early June, we will have less conflict with Dayton.

...continued

Speaking of Dayton, this was my fourth year in a row. And, it was the worst weather, too. When I arrived in early afternoon on Thursday, it was raining and chilly. Friday at Hara Arena was partly cloudy and chilly. On Saturday we had more rain. Sunday was sunny but cold with morning temperatures around 36 degrees Fahrenheit. It seemed to me that there were more people buzzing around on those electric scooters than in years past. That makes sense, of course, for a hobby whose average age of participants is now over 60! It also brings home the need to rejuvenate our hobby if we want it to live on after we are gone.

Our Dayton booth for CWops was Ball Arena 443 – same as last year. We were right around the corner from Begali and down the lane from ARRL. There was a constant din of CW coming from the Begali booth and other nearby paddle-vendor booths. It warmed the cockles of my heart ☺.

I want to thank the members who volunteered to staff the booth all three days. They were: Jerry AC4BT, Dallas K1DW, John K6MM, Bill KC4D, Art KZ5D, Mel KJ9C, Bud N5AN, Max N5NHJ, Mitch NW0M, Dwight NS9I, Chuck NO5W, James VK4TJF, Rich VE3KI, and Jack W0UCE. I goofed in scheduling Saturday and ended up putting in four hours myself at the booth in addition to my two hours on Friday. Jerry AC4BT was kind enough to sit in with me from 4 PM until the show closed on Saturday. Thanks again, Jerry.

Here is a partial list of members who stopped by the CWops booth at Dayton:

AA9A, AC4BT, AC8W, AE0P, DU3/N0QM, I8NHJ, JN1THL, K0PFX, K0VBU, K0VXU, K1AJ, K1DW, K1EP, K1IR, K1SM, K1ZZI, K2AU, K2CDYE, K2LE, K2QO, K2ZR, K3CT, K3GHH, K4IU, K4ZA, K4ZGB, K6RB, K7NM, K9CS, K9NR, KA0IOT, KC4D, KD8SAV, KJ9C, KN5O, KZ5D, N2SR, N3AD, N4HAI, N4OO, N4ZZ, N5AN, N5IR, N5WE, N6VOH, N7US, N8AA, N8TD, NC4S, NF9V, NO5W, NS9I, NW0M, VE3KI, VK4TJF, VO1MP, VQ9LA, W0EA, W0JX, W0UCE, W1VE, W1WEF, W2CQ, W2GD, W4CC, W4NZ, W8IQ, W9CC, W9OP, W9RE, W9SZ, WA8IWK, WB2AIV, WB8EJN, WB8JUI, WJ1B. ... Wow!

While attending the dinner on Thursday that was organized by Bill KC4D (about 40 attendees), I learned that one of our members and CW Academy advisors, Tad WF4W, had passed away at a hospital in Georgia. It left me with a real sense of loss. Tad and I spent a lot of time together in South Africa and Mozambique (C82DX). So my sense of loss was personal. It also reminded me that we are all here momentarily, and to treat each other as if our current encounter could be our last.

By early June, our latest class of CW Academy will have ended, and we will again welcome our new graduates with a slower-speed version of CWT. Hank W6SX will get us all briefed on that. I'm heartened by the notes I receive about how much our students appreciate our efforts. Here's one I got just yesterday, for example:

"Thank you, Rob, for the CW Academy! Our class in Level 1 is just wrapping up and, to a person, we all feel that this has been the most effective method that we've ever experienced for learning the code. Hats off also to Barry K8QI who has done a fantastic job as our instructor. Personally we are VERY grateful for the Academy and are enthusiastically looking forward to what lies ahead.

73,

Suzanne N1SUZ & Jim KJ4WKD

One of the questions I was asked at Dayton was “what makes CWops any different than the other CW clubs, like FOC, SKCC and FISTS?” That note from Suzanne and Jim, I think, says it all. CW Academy is unique.

CWT is also unique. After our trial of organizing them every Wednesday during April and May, we saw that the participation was high enough to continue with that schedule. So every Wednesday CWops will hold its three 1-hour sessions at 1300, 1900 and 0300Z. And, if April and May are a good indication, we can expect to see more participants in areas outside of North America.

Finally, I am making my initial appointments for the CWops Ambassador program. You’ll see more about that later in this issue. From day one, CWops was intended as an international club. Because of the global distribution of amateur radio operators, we knew that a lot of our members would be in North America. And they are. But CWops has appeal to operators in all the continents. To accommodate that appeal, we will ultimately have CWops Ambassadors in 23 areas of the globe (see the maps in the members only section). These first 10 appointees are all members who are active and have an interest in reaching out to potential members in their respective areas. The CWops Ambassador program will ultimately ensure that hams, everywhere, know who we are and what we’re doing. And, that’s a good thing.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor

Customer Support!



“Uh, we don’t support that model any more. Wanna buy a new one?” How often do you hear that when asking a so-called “Customer Support” representative for a little help? I have heard it too many times, sometimes only weeks after purchasing a brand new product from a mainstream manufacturer at a mainstream retail outlet. And even if support continues, it is often grudging, incompetent and ineffective. It is a disgrace to the electronics industry (among others) and a huge frustration for consumers. So it’s always refreshing when we encounter just the opposite – prompt, courteous, knowledgeable and effective support. One of the best examples in ham radio is Elecraft, Inc. of Watsonville, CA, USA. Whether you have a problem, a question, a failure or just an item for the Wish List, skilled professionals are there, ably assisted by a 7x24 email reflector where avid (rabid?) customers are eager to help Right Now, even if it’s a work holiday back in California. They have set a new standard that only a few other companies even attempt to emulate.

It’s particularly refreshing when a mere CLUB shows the same level of dedication. I enjoyed that experience this week when I had a problem with one of my two YCCC SO2R Box+ units. The Yankee Clipper Contest Club of New England designed this high quality, easy-to-use, basic SO2R controller as a club project a few years ago. Various members handled hardware and software design, PCB layout, mechanical design, parts procurement, documentation, kitting and distribution.

Not only their own members, but also hundreds of hams around the world snarfed down these kits through several waves of production, eager to go SO2R without the pains and complications of more complex and expensive commercial offerings. It's a great little box, [reviewed here](#) by me some years ago. The box and its accoutrements are even better now.

But it is a box of electronics and occasionally something will go wrong. The other day I was surprised to hear the characteristic “beep” that my PC emits when a USB device goes off line. I was busy doing something unrelated to USB, so I ignored it at first. An hour later, however, I reached across the desk and happened to touch the SO2R Box. Whoa! It was hot ... very hot. I opened the case looking for the tell-tale signs and odors of electronic self-destruction but none were to be seen or smelled. I'm a software guy, not an electrical engineer, and at that moment could not even find the schematic. (Got it later – it was hiding.) So I mailed off an inquiry to the [reflector](#) around 2200 local (0100 in YCCC-land) to solicit some advice. At 0530 the next day I received the first in a series of responses which guided me through a reasonable sequence of trouble-shooting steps. About 48 hours after the event, including relocating to my other QTH, the box was fixed! Box user Mike WA1SEO and CWops member Paul K1XM (chief designer of the box) were as helpful as can be and quickly led me to the problems. These guys aren't paid to produce and support this box and most of them have real jobs. But they do support it and it sure is a pleasure to experience the kind of VIP treatment they provide to their users around the world. Thanks and “Attaboys” to all!

Feature Photo

The Page 1 photo this month, courtesy of Marshall Emm of [MorseExpress.com](#), is of the Scheunemann Morsetasten *Morse Dirigent* paddle. The *Morse Dirigent* is the successor to the Schurr Profi 2, which is no longer available, and looks almost identical. The Profi 2 has long been one of my personal favorites.

New Members

Check out the New Members column this month. It looks like a record number for one month since we originally stabilized after the charter enrollment period. And those asterisks? Most of our newcomers signed up for Life Membership!

Editorial Guidelines

Putting out *Solid Copy* each month is an honor and a pleasure. But if I could trim an hour off each issue, I could spend more time on the air making CW contacts! You authors can help with a few simple favors:

1. If you use Microsoft Word, please use the Garamond font, 12 point. Set your paragraphs to 6 point Before and After and Single line spacing and don't put blank lines between paragraphs. These alone could save me multiple minutes per article. I will post a template on the club Web site that you can use, so this favor shouldn't cost you any time at all.
2. Send contributions to my primary email address rick@tavan.com. This saves me forwarding from my gmail address which I use primarily for bulk mail – reflectors and such. It will reduce errors and lost material and save me some time and confusion.
3. For the time being, please don't send PDF files. I don't have the tools necessary to move them into my Word document even though I later convert that file to a PDF for publication. Bless the policy makers at Adobe for this, I suppose.
4. Send photos as attached JPGs if you can. I can accept some other formats as well if you don't have JPG. I have trouble with messages that embed photos as part of an email itself.

Some work OK but others provoke all sorts of bizarre Word behavior. This may be the result of a Microsoft vs. Apple feud.

I'll certainly accept and do my best to tweak submissions that can't or just don't follow these guidelines. But thanks for helping when you can. You're all *Solid Copy* Assistant Editors now!

Bigger and Better Publications

Prolific contributor W6SX notes that there were three great articles by CWops members in the June issue of QST:

1. A Low Profile Two-Element 40 Meter Wire Beam by brand-new member Larry Serra, N6NC.
2. High Performance Antenna Systems for the Motivated Ham by Tom Taormina, K5RC.
3. The Hammarlund HQ100A Receiver by Harold Kramer, WJ1B.

Well done gents!

Enough ramblings for this month. Hope you enjoy the issue.

73,

Rick N6XI

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[Keep Reading](#)

How We Were

Hank Garretson W6SX

“Here’s the earliest photo I could find,” wrote N6BV, “with a youthful Dean showing a neighborhood kid (the one with headphones on his head) my station.”



Dean N6BV (R) Showing His Station to a Young(er) Neighbor ca. 1959

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Field Day!

Hank Garretson W6SX

Everyone loves Field Day. It's one of my favorite ham happenings. I've done it all ways. In 1967 W2EUP (SK), N2DC, CWops member K1GQ and I took first place nationally in Class 1A—a highlight of my early ham years. In 1977, I participated in a European field day with a group in Braunschweig, Germany. Then there were some years when I avoided Field Day, partly because I didn't have a local club and partly because of relatively low operating standards. (I know, I know—the League says, FD isn't a contest!) More recently, I've done FD from home and made a special effort to be mellow-jello. I took the operators as they came,

tried to encourage and help, and tried to set a good example. It's fun hearing so many people enjoying themselves.

Field Day is a ham-radio celebration. As CWops members, we can help others celebrate. In particular, FD is our opportunity to encourage and help hams enjoy CW. Do FD with your local club. Operate CW at slow speeds. Have people sit next to you and then let them operate while you mentor and help and maybe log. If at some point when you're at the key and you have a crowd watching, crank it up and show them how CW can really cook.

Or, operate FD from home. Invite locals over and let them try their hands. One of the things keeping many hams off of CW is the lack of decent HF capability. Let them experience how much fun CW can be.

There are lots of other possibilities. Whatever you do, be a FD CW ambassador.

The first rule of CW is to have fun and to share the fun.

[In North America, Field Day is the most popular operating event of the year by number of participants. This year W/VE FD is June 27-29. – Ed.]

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Fun with the RSGB Centenary Station

Stewart Rolfe, GW0ETF/GW4J (CwOps #919)

2014, as we know, is the ARRL Centennial year but 12 months ago it was the RSGB that was having a party to mark its 100th birthday and, just like the ARRL now, we ran a year-long special event station that moved around the UK from region to region attracting huge interest from around the globe. The RSGB was allocated the unique call Gx100RSGB (x indicates UK country) and I had the privilege of having the call for three days in September 2013 during its allocation to the North Wales region.

I had the call for two separate sessions, September 4th and 5th and the final day for Region 6 September 9th. After studying the stats of the previous 8 months of operations, I decided to concentrate on CW on the high bands as it was clear that too much earlier activity had concentrated on 40M SSB to UK, a fact that was pointed out regularly in cluster messages and reflector postings! The call sign certainly seemed to work some magic on the otherwise mediocre conditions and activity was very high throughout, with interest from all over the globe except Africa for some reason. All this was done with wire antennas – a Cobwebb for the high bands, a ¼ wave vertical for 40M and a 100ft doublet to cover 80M (unfortunately no 160M). The setup was a single K3 with an Acom 1000 amplifier and I logged with Win-Test as I wanted to play around with some remote partnering in the pile-ups, something that Win-Test is particularly good at.

In the first session I made 2064 contacts in 77 countries from 1719 unique call signs. There were impressive pile-ups and huge interest from Japan. Overall 10% of the contacts were JAs, and on 15M they made up a staggering 25%. Working JA pile-ups is brilliant as everyone is so civilised and well behaved – you give out a partial call and silence suddenly descends save for that sole station replying to your invitation, the polar opposite to the archetypal EU zoo. It's just a pity that we suffer so much from multi-path echoes to/from Japan here, particularly when using non-directive

antennas. This often makes copy of even S9 signals impossible and often requires a severe reduction in CW speed to stand any chance. The morning of the second session (Sept 9th) was disappointingly slow and I feared it would turn into a bit of a non-event. However, as the day wore on the conditions improved and by late afternoon and evening it had really picked up with folk taking the last opportunity to put GW100RSGB into their logs and I ended with 1110 further contacts.

The final total after my three days of operating GW100RSGB was 3187 QSOs from 2490 unique calls and from 84 different countries. 89.7% were on CW with 7% RTTY and 3.3% SSB. The three days were hard work and I lost some sleep but it was excellent fun and a great opportunity using a call sign guaranteed to attract huge interest and big pile-ups worldwide. This experience would normally involve some serious outlay of cash to get to some rare location with an exotic call sign. The fact that I could sit at the fun end of some serious pile-ups from my own garden shed using my wire antennas and my dog asleep on my feet was an opportunity I'm glad I didn't miss. W1AW/x is also very obviously a pile-up magnet and I'd highly recommend it to anyone still wondering about operating this special centennial situation.

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News & Notes

Jerry AC4BT

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jveisskohk@gmail.com.

Rob K6RB: I bought a used Alpha 87A last week and installed it over the Memorial Day weekend. Its first "road test" will be at 1300Z in the next CWT, and again at 0300Z. So far, it looks like it's working just fine. So it's time for the shake-down cruise.

Tom W4BQE: I got an email this past week from the Marconi Memorial Contest ARI club in Italy and I think this information would be interesting to the group. These folks stress "CW only" for their contest and it should be an interesting Test. "Marconi Memorial Contest HF CW" CW only, simple rules, held since 1996 and now in its eighteenth edition, created and managed by ARI Club of Fano (Italy). The Contest takes place July 5th – July 6th.

Kate K6HTN: It has been almost five years since my first CW QSO. In fact, it was my first HF QSO, in any mode. That is a story of its own! The only thing I could make out from the scheduled contact was EMAIL ME, so I did. He emailed back my signal report, which was 119. It wasn't a CW failure, but a failure to understand propagation well enough!

During these five years, I have developed a decent enough fist with a single-lever paddle, decent enough for RN6, PAN and a TCC sked. I've been working on learning the bug as well since I also participate in SKCC and a straight key tires my mouse-worn wrist out very quickly. I've had some success, but not much.

[Please ignore the following extraneous underline. – Ed.]

Recently, I have gotten the idea to learn to use a Sideswiper. I quickly discovered that this causes huge problems with my regular NTS fist! Much too confusing for my poor brain! I quickly came to the conclusion that the Sideswiper is a long-term project and will have to be accomplished with my left hand, which is usually reserved for opening jars and other tasks not involving any form of fine motor control. It's hard! Every character has to be learned twice, forward and backward. There is some progress: I can now alternate sides and I can usually tell the difference between my dits and dahs. Ls and Fs are my banes, especially back-to-back. We'll see where this goes. Meanwhile, it is always both fun and frustrating to try to rearrange neurons.

Joe KC0VKN: I recently acquired a KX1. The current working plan is to try to make some of those CWTs I miss since there is a nice park across from my office and I can sneak over there for lunch. Be warned! I'll be hand-logging and pushing 3 watts on a "wet noodle" from the Iowa River Valley!

Bert F6HKA: If some of you are chasing IOTA, F5MKN Lo #1291 and I Bert #1088 will be active from Ouessant Island EU-065 from June 14th to 21st. We'll be active 40m to 10m.

[The following extraneous underline is courtesy of a bug in the brain-damaged product Microsoft Office Word. If you can get rid of it, you're a better Editor than me! – Ed.]

Jim KA0IQT: I picked up a new paddle at Dayton this year. It is a "Solid State / Software Defined" CW paddle made by 9A5N and sold in the USA by PRO-PADDLES (<http://www.pro-paddles.com/index.html>) PRO-PADDLES had a booth at the QRP Four Days in May event on Thursday and at the Hamvention, across from the Elecraft booth.

The paddle uses MEMs devices to sense paddle pressure and is software adjustable between 10 and 50 grams of pressure. Most of my paddles are set at 20 grams as measured on a dynamometer. There are no mechanical contacts and no springs or magnets.

I put it to work in the 1300Z session of May 21st CWT and so far it is working great.

Below is a photo of the paddle in my shack.



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The 2014 North American Weekend Report

The 2014 North American Weekend – a social event celebrating CW operation and operators – was held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia the weekend of May 2-4. In attendance for all or part of the weekend were: Joe K2VUI and Jenny, Pete W1RM and Bobbie, Pete W1UU and Maria, John N3AM and Sharron, Jim N3JT and Nina, Riki K7NJ and Becki, Bill K3XA and Barb, Frank W3LPL and Phyllis, Jerry AC4BT, Bill KC4D, Rob K6RB, Mike KK1MM, Tom WA2BCK, Bob KC3VO, Jim W4PRO, John AA4JJ and Don W4ZYT. We were fortunate to enjoy splendid weather the entire weekend – the Washington, D.C. area at its best.

Friday evening found us at *Joe's Pizza and Pasta* in Vienna, VA for a pleasant meal and socialization. Several runs at the Guinness record for pizza consumption were attempted but final results have not been officially confirmed. The group then repaired to the hospitality suite at the Marriott for some additional conversation.

Jim N3JT and Nina laid on their traditional and always excellent Saturday brunch, which included a tour of the N3JT station configured for remote operation. After a great morning, we regrouped at *Clyde's Restaurant* at Tysons – just outside of D.C. in Northern Virginia – for drinks and a very nice meal. Many returned to the hospitality suite at the Marriott to trade tales and advice about antennas, operating, Florida, travel, and other subjects.



The Ladies Table at the DC Dinner (aka North American Weekend)

Several of the crew met for breakfast at the hotel on Sunday, after which we set out to return home. It was the consensus of the group that we couldn't have had a nicer weekend weather-wise and that the small but convivial group made for another memorable CW Weekend.

For more photos from this excellent weekend, see <http://tinyurl.com/p7kla87> .

Next year's CW Weekend will be June 5-7, 2015, again at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel at (703) 849-9400. Please specify "North American CW Weekend" to obtain the special \$ 99.00 per night rate. Information about making on line hotel reservations via the Internet and the code for doing so will be forthcoming later. It is not too early to make your reservation now and in fact it would be prudent to do it early because the special rate block is not large and we are anticipating a big turnout next year.

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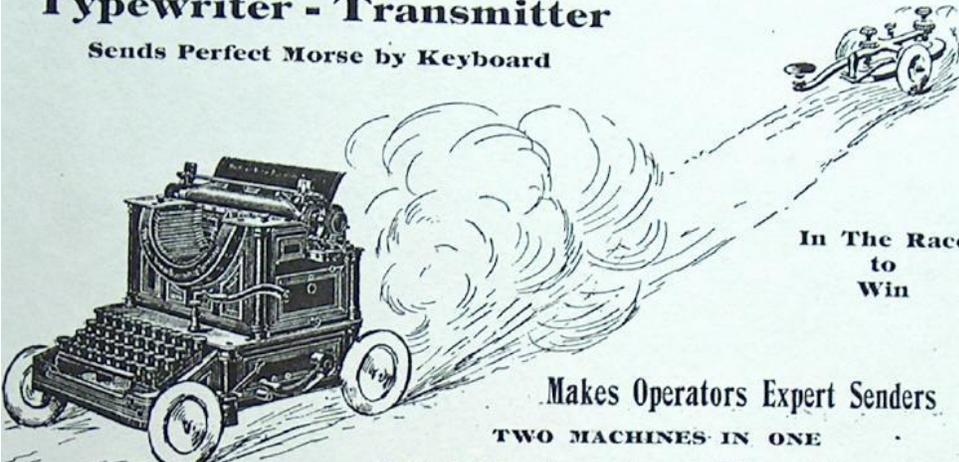
[\[Keep reading; we're not done yet!\]](#)

The Yetman CW Typewriter

John KIESE

I finally found a modern (1909) way to improve my fist....

THE YETMAN
Typewriter - Transmitter
Sends Perfect Morse by Keyboard



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The YETMAN TYPEWRITER-TRANSMITTER CO. is manufacturing this combined machine at North Adams, Mass., where it owns outright a four-story factory building with as complete an equipment for typewriter manufacture as there is in any part of the world.

The manufacturing end of the business is in charge of Chas. E. Yetman, the inventor of this machine. Mr. Yetman is Vice-President and General Manager of this company. He will devote his whole time to the factory end of the business. His assistants are the ablest men to be found in the typewriter field.

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Especially designed for Telegraph Operators so as to avoid the severe nervous and physical strain which hand-senders are up against.

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Yetman Typewriter-Transmitter Co.
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W211

You can find more on the Web [here](#).

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Ambassador Program

Rob K6RB

You will recall that earlier in the year I announced my intention to appoint ambassadors for CWops. You will find maps in the “members only” area, under “ambassador,” where you can see how we’ve divided up the globe.

Based on expressed interest as well as evidence of activity, I have reached out to 16 members as appointees. I have already received some replies and I’m happy to say that all but one has accepted the appointment. The one who did not is in a region that is currently in a crisis situation. So he asked me to wait until things settle down and I agreed.

As soon as I hear back from the others, I will announce more appointments. Those of you who may be interested should look at the maps to see if your area is currently unassigned. If so, please email me to express your interest.

Our ambassadors will be our point of contact in their respective areas. Thus, someone in North West US interested in CWops or other club programs would contact that ambassador for current and accurate information. In addition, our ambassadors may visit regional trade shows or local ham clubs and present information about CWops, CWT, CW Open and CW Academy.

Each ambassador will soon receive a distinctive badge that identifies him or her as a CWops Ambassador. They will also be given presentation materials that can be used to describe CWops and its various programs. Ambassadors are also encouraged to inform area ham newsletters and journals about the club and any upcoming events. In essence, our ambassadors represent us to the hams in their areas.

Here are the ambassadorial areas and the current appointees:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Appointee</u>
NW US (NW)	AC2K
SW US (SW)	KH6LC
N. Cntrl US (NCTRL)	NS9I
S. Cntrl US (SCTRL)	W0VX
NE US (NE)	K3MD
SE US (SE)	NN4K
W Canada (WCA)	
E Canada (ECA)	VE3KI
NW Europe (NWE)	GW4J
SW Europe (SWE)	
N Ctrl EU (NCE)	
S Ctrl EU (SCE)	IK0XCB
E EU (EE)	

RU Asia (RUA)
China (CN)
Japan (JA) **JE1TRV**
M.E. Asia (MEA)
S. Asia (SA)

Oceania (OC) **VK4TFJ**

Africa North (AFN)
Africa South (AFS) **ZS1C**

S. America N (SAN)

S. America S (SAS)

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Upcoming CW Operating Events

Joe Staples W5ASP

This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities. The major contests are not included. Those events are well known and widely publicized. However, the “second tier” of activities are often overlooked and many times provide a venue for experiencing CW at its best. This will be the focus in this column. Comments are welcome.

Two of the upcoming events present opportunities for a different kind of operating experience. All of us know that ARRL Field Day is “Not a Contest.” But it is a chance for a CW operator to polish skills in a very active environment. Most Field Day groups are eager to have additional operators for their CW stations. Even if your club isn’t doing Field Day this year, there are others waiting to welcome you with open arms. Look around, you’ll find a slot.

Depending on your skill level and/or preference, hook up with another CW operator and work together as a team. Get a second set of headphones and share the station. The more experienced operator can take the lead as the primary with his partner as spotter and log checker. This is a great way to get the hang of operating CW at Field Day. If you’re reasonably new at CW, you’ll pick up the techniques of fast operating at the side of someone who has “been there, done that,” and if you’re an “old hand” you’ll really get a kick out of “showing the ropes” to your less experienced partner.

The other somewhat unique event is the Canada Day Contest. Unlike the majority of contests it is held on a fixed date, July 1st, “Canada Day.” This year it’s on a Tuesday. It’s one of the very few events, other than CWT, that occur during the week. It’s usually pretty well attended, and some of

the more scarce VEs show up on the bands. It's one of the two annual contests sponsored by the RAC. The other, the Winter Contest, is in late December.

Enjoy ...

Alabama QSO Party - 1600 UTC **Jun 7th** to 0400 UTC **Jun 8th**. <http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/>

All Asian DX Contest, CW - 0000Z, **Jun 21st** to 2400Z, **Jun 22nd**.

https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2014AA_rule.htm

ARRL Field Day - 1800Z, **Jun 28th** to 2100Z, **Jun 29th**

<http://www.ARRL.org/Field-Day>

Canada Day Contest - 0000Z-2359Z, **Jul 1st**

<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests>

Until next time ... "dit dit" ... Joe W5ASP

(Sources: We gratefully acknowledge the ARRL Contest Update e-newsletter edited by Ward Silver N0AX, the WA7BNM Contest Calendar edited by Bruce Horn WA7BNM and the Texas DX Society newsletter Contest Chatter column contributed by Joe W5ASP.)

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB and Will WJ9B

Our Apr-May 2014 semester is now wrapping up. Some of us have extended it into early June because of interruptions from Dayton and the DC Weekend but all of us should be done by mid-June. Hank W6SX will be announcing a 20 wpm or less CWT day to celebrate and welcome our new and former CWA graduates.

We will take advantage of the hiatus until Sep-Oct 2014 semester to brief our newest advisors and get the classes organized by level and time zone.

CW Academy is very hot, right now. The Jan-Feb 2015 class was closed with nearly 140 student signups. So we are still running almost 12 months of backlog.

Level 2 signups are surging as our Level 1 grads elect to stay in the program. And Level 3 signups have also increased as some Level 2 grads opt for the advanced program. We are getting a lot of very positive feedback from students, and finding out that the program is being touted by word of mouth and local ham blogs and newsletters.

The key, as always, is to continue making sure the quality of what we deliver is good and to keep adding new advisors to our corps. We have an associate advisor program where people who would like to try it but are worried about going it alone can work with an experienced advisor to see how it's done and to gain some hands-on experience.

We are hoping over the summer break to launch a Japanese CW Academy where the program is taught in Japanese, all materials are in that language, but the students are taught International Morse and the important English words and abbreviations for making CW QSOs.

We are also working on a pilot program for a Youth CW Academy where young students within a particular age group are grouped together with advisors. They will be encouraged to practice together and, upon completion, we hope to outfit each with a donated transceiver and some type of usable, portable HF antenna that can circumvent CC&R restrictions while enabling these young CW ops to make QSOs with their age peers and others. Ham radio needs to be rejuvenated and CWops has some ideas for starting that ball rolling.

73,

Rob and Will

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CWops Tests

by Hank Garretson W6SX

You voted with your keys. Participation in our trial weekly CWTs was good and achieved critical mass. From now on, we will have CWops Tests every Wednesday/Thursday. For many of us, this will be a godsend—we don't have to remember which weeks are CWTs. The CWops website has been updated to reflect weekly CWTs.

Another Trick Hat



Chuck K0RF wearing 2nd HP Hat Trick Hat

Very Special CWops Tests

Another group of eager CW Academy students will graduate at the end of May. Our task is to help them take the next step to becoming on-the-air CW operators. Let's hang out on the twenty-eights. Let's CQ at no more than 25 WPM. Let's answer slow CQs. Let's slow down to whatever speed the other chap is sending. Let's help the tentative make the jump to full-fledged CW aficionados.

We will have Very Special CWops Tests on 11/12 June to celebrate the completion of CW Academy's latest semester. We are inviting and encouraging graduates to participate. Our goal is to hook them by providing a welcoming, friendly opportunity to use their new CW skills.

Guidelines for Very Special CWTs

1. Everyone limit speed to 20 WPM maximum. Even when you are working someone you normally work at 30 WPM, please send no faster than 20 WPM. When you answer someone CQing at less than 20 WPM, answer at his speed. When someone answers your 20 WPM CQ at a slower speed, match his speed.

2. Thank stations by name.
3. If appropriate, help stations by explaining CWT exchange.
4. If someone wants to rag chew, rag chew for a bit.
5. Send lots of FBs and other encouragement.
6. Us working us – we do that all the time. Please make a special effort to work the new guys.
7. Send a welcoming QSL card or email to each new station worked.
8. If a new op does well and meets CWops standards, ask if he or she would like to join CWops. (After the CWT, not during.)

Mark your calendars: Very Special CWops Tests 11/12 June. The graduates are our new blood. They are the hams who will carry on the CW tradition. Let's make a very special effort to get on and make the graduates feel welcome. Let's infect them with the CW bug.

Very Special CWops Test Participation Awards Bonus

We have awards for CWT participation. The medals are really nice.



You earn one point for each CWT session in which you make ten or more contacts. You don't have to be a CWops member to earn points, but you must be a member at the end of the year when the awards are presented. To earn a Gold medal, you need 60 points, Silver 40 points and Bronze 24 points. Our objective is to encourage CWT participation – you don't have to be competitive to earn points, just active.

With the trial period and now weekly CWTs, there will be 144 CWT sessions in 2014. As a special bonus, we are keeping award levels for 2014 the same as they were for 2013. This is your opportunity to win a medal or upgrade to a higher level. Do it now because award thresholds may increase for 2015.

The first rule of CW is to have fun and to share the fun.

CW Exuberantly,

Hank W6SX

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CWops Awards

Pete W1RM and Peter W1UU

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

Here are the current totals for CWops awards:

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE
F6HKA	479	2714	W1RM	127	N5RR	50	W1RM	42
VE3KI	388	2576	OH2BN	112	W1RM	50	OH2BN	40
W1RM	369	3032	F6HKA	109	F6HKA	49	EA8OM	36
W0VX	296	1681	W4VQ	106	W1UU	49	F6HKA	36
KZ5D	295	3108	EA8OM	89	AD1C	48	N5RR	36
N5RR	274	2976	N5RR	85	EA8OM	48	W4VQ	35
N1EN	263	595	EA1WX	80	K6DGW	48	KR3E	34
EA8OM	262	2097	VK3KI	78	K6RB	48	KZ5D	34
DL8PG	282	1397	KZ5D	77	KZ5D	48	FG8NY	32
GW0ETF	253	1110	K1ESE	76	NN6T	48	VE3KI	32
W1UU	240	1436	KR3E	73	VE3KI	48	W0VX	31
AD1C	235	1288	W0VX	73	W4VQ	48	W9ILY	31
FG8NY	215	1534	W9ILY	70	W6KY	48	EA1WX	30
K1ESE	278	1356	AD1C	65	W9ILY	48	K1ESE	30
W9ILY	181	1777	NN6T	65	FG8NY	47	N1ZX	28
PA7RA	150	1047	FG8NY	62	GW0ETF	47	W1UU	28
K6RB	134	2356	GW0ETF	62	K1ESE	47	GW0ETF	27
K6DGW	93	1170	N1ZX	62	KR3E	47	NN6T	27
NN6T	91	1264	W1UU	62	EA1WX	46	AD1C	24
OH2BN	45	530	W6KY	53	N1ZX	45	4Z1UF	21
W6KY	32	1478	4Z1UF	50	W0VX	45	K6RB	21
N1ZX	26	688	K6RB	48	OH2BN	42	N1EN	17
G0DJA	16	23	N1EN	39	N1EN	40	W6KY	16
AA3B	0	3874	K6DGW	29	4Z1UF	36	K6DGW	8
EA1WX	0	1426	G0DJA	10	G0DJA	8	G0DJA	7
KR3E	0	1136						
N2UU	0	1774						
OK1RR	0	893						
PA1FOX	0	5						

PA4N	0	955								
SM6CNN	0	2392								
W4VQ	0	1464								
W5ASP	0	893								
WX7SJ	0	397								

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1279	NF7D*	Bob
1280	K5WA*	Bob
1281	ZL2KE*	Steve
1282	WA4TT	John
1283	N3HEE*	Joe
1284	W4CC*	John
1285	VE3MGY*	Brian
1286	JF2IWL*	Dai
1288	N4NM	Chuck
1287	N9CK*	Steve
1289	KC7PM*	Ted
1290	N6NC*	Larry
1291	F5MNK	Lo
1292	N3MNT	Bob
1293	N5DX/ZF2DX*	Kevin

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of May 29:

Need Sponsors: W00DS

Invitations Extended: N2IC, UA9FGJ, KU6UP, IK8TEO, KU7T

For more details about nominees and status, check the "Members Only" pages on the Website: www.cwops.org.

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a program for members who enjoy casual CW QSOs. Any time you have a QSO that goes over 20 minutes, jot down the call sign of the other station, and before the fifth of the next month, go to the [CWOps website QTX page](#) in the Members Only section and put in your total. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - The QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.

QTX Plaque Standings

The QTX Plaque is awarded to the operator with the most QTX points at the end of the year. April conditions must have been pretty good since the QTX numbers are strong. These are the standings at the end of April and year to date for 2014 -

<u>Call</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>CY2014</u>
K14XH	74	307
WB6BEE	66	223
N1ZX	45	110
NN6T	44	150
N5IR	38	156
K5KV	37	151
K5LY	23	95
K4AHO	16	94
WA8IWK	16	54
K6HP	14	14
KE6OIO	14	56
WA3NZR	14	71
JE1TRV	13	37
K8QI	8	23
N4SR	8	50
K6RB	5	27
K6HTN	4	13
K0DTJ	3	26
W5JQ	3	17
KC9EE	2	19
K3GHH	1	3
N5RR		15
W6JMP		8
HB9CVQ		5
KC0VKN		5
K6RQT		4

Fred KI4XH has extended his lead with another impressive month. WB6BEE holds on to second. There is a close race for third between NN6T, N5IR and K5KV with N5IR currently leading.

Personal bests in April came from WB6BEE, N1ZX, K6HP, and K8QI. It's getting tougher to score that personal best as the year moves on.

Total QSOs were 448, down 5 from the March record, but not by much. Reporting stations were 21, down three from last month.

QTX Achievement Medals

QTX Medals will be awarded at the end of the year for 400 QTX points (Gold), 300 QTX points (Silver), and 200 QTX points (Bronze).

Fred KI4XH is now at the Silver Medal level. Don WB6BEE has achieved Bronze. There may be others out there who qualify but have not yet let me know their year-to-date totals.

As I write this mid-May I am at 186. Bronze is in sight. I use DXKeeper as my logging program. DXKeeper, like many other logging programs, lets you select data using SQL database commands. Here's the SQL I use to show my year-to-date QTX total -

```
DateDiff ("n", QSO_BEGIN,QSO_END)>=20 and QSO_Begin > #2014-01-01 00:00#
```

If you use DXKeeper you can assign this to a 'SQL Query Filter' and have your total at the click of a button. I'm sure other programs that accept SQL would make it just as easy.

If you have reached an Achievement Medal level, let me know so I can pass it on. Unlike the QTX Plaque, you don't have to send in totals monthly.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

QTX Manager

QTX – All About Conversational CW

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