



## CWops Events

On-Air Monthly CWT

Next one: 12 January 2011

Start time:

1100Z Asia/VK/ZL region

1900Z Europe Region

0300Z (13 January) NA region

1-hour each region

Exchange name/number (members)

Exchange 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

## CWops “Happy Hour”

1900 local, every day, on or near the “neighborhood”  
frequencies – just call “CQ” or answer someone else.

## CWops Officers and Director

### Officers

President: Pete Chamalian, [W1RM](#)

Vice President: Art Suberbielle, [KZ5D](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)

### Directors:

Bert Donn, [G3XSN](#)

Shin Onisawa, [JA1NUT](#)

Vidi La Grange, [ZS1EL](#)

**Webmaster:** John Miller, [K6MM](#)

**Publisher:** Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)

## From the president...



Happy New Year to all!

### Rookie Roundup:

I was able to spend some time in the ARRL Rookie Roundup in late

December, working 22 rookies. I had forgotten what life was like at 14 wpm – but managed to hand out some contacts.

Subsequent to the roundup, I’ve emailed those stations I worked and asked them for ideas on how we can help rookies. I’ve had several replies with some very interesting ideas – stand by for more on this subject as helping new CW operators is a core objective.

### 2010 in Review:

2010 was a fantastic year for CWops. In January we started with little more than an idea and by year end, we have a fully functioning international organization with more than 840 members. We have an activities program with the monthly CWT and an awards program too.

Our Education and Outreach efforts began with the establishment of a ARRL Foundation grant to support cw training and education. Other grants have been made as well.

We have a fully functioning web site, a reflector, a mechanism to communicate with every member via email when necessary and our monthly newsletter, Solid Copy.

You will see a detailed synopsis of the activities for 2010 elsewhere in this issue.

## **2011 – What’s Ahead?**

As we start our second year, it’s appropriate to set some goals and objectives for the 2011. Here are a few of them:

1. Continue to grow our Membership – Can we hit 1500 next year?
2. Expanded Outreach and Education – not only to those learning the code, but to rookies trying to improve.
3. More On-Air Activities – especially focused on new CW ops
4. More In-Person Activities and Gatherings – CWops meetings or gatherings at larger events like conventions and such.
5. Development of a CD for the promotion of CW.
6. Sponsor Awards and Recognition for new CW operators in contests.

These are but a few goals to explore and put into motion. To do these things we will need the help of every member so watch for more details to come.

73,

*Pete, WIRM*

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### **From the VP/Activities Chairman...**



Happy New Year and Happy Anniversary! CWops is celebrating its first birthday. And what a year it has been. Many of us can look back and find a lot of events that we hope never occur again (i.e., BP’s oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico). But if you focus your perspective on the ham radio world, the creation and first-year success of CWops is among the most significant events of the year. To all of you 850 plus members who became a part of this historic year, here is a salute from your Activities Team.

Now let’s set out a plan to continue the excitement in 2011. As mentioned in other columns, one of the keys to the success of CWops is the contribution of ideas by a number of members. We want to broaden the perspective of our group and are now recruiting new members for our Activity Team. We need you and your ideas! This is not a time-consuming commitment. Activity Team members communicate by email. We discuss various ideas and proposals about events and

awards that will encourage more CW activity. If you would like to contribute some time and ideas to our group, send me an email.

Our Activity Team has been delighted with the instant success of our monthly mini-CWTs. With three distinct one-hour windows, it is possible for most of us to find a time when it's convenient to get on the air and have fun. Many of our members are regular monthly participants, while others take part occasionally. Some of us like to report our results on the 3830 site, or on the CWops reflector. Our webmaster, K6MM, compiles the results and posts them on our CWops website. If you haven't given the mini-CWT a try yet, a good New Year's resolution would be to join in the next one on Wednesday, January 12. As Rick, W6RKC, explains, "I have found the mini-CWT contests to be very enjoyable, and have even made the 1100 UTC event a couple of times."

We also have devised an activity to encourage member-to-member contacts throughout the year, in casual QSOs and in contests. It's the CWops Annual Competition Award (ACA). Only one contact per member per calendar year can be counted for this award. As we begin a new year, all of us will be starting fresh. So now is a good time to start tracking your contacts. There's a free software program available for downloading on our website that was created by Bill, N5RR. Or if you prefer using the conventional paper and pencil method, just download our latest roster and check off each member that you work during 2011. Certificates are available for reaching various levels. And you can even print your own from our website. Each month you'll find a listing of stations that have reported their ACA numbers in Solid Copy. Take a look at the 2010 final results at the end of this column.

For the avid award-chasers, there's the CWops Cumulative Membership Award (CMA) that consists of the total number of members contacted on each amateur band in perpetuity. This includes all contacts beginning January 3, 2010 to the present date. Those interested in this award also are welcome to report their monthly totals to me and will be listed.

Membership Award. Reports listed reflect all information received through December 30, 2010. Stations with an asterisk \* next to their calls have updated their reports this month. Listing ranked by ACA totals. This is the final listing for activity through 2010. Next month's report will reflect activity beginning January 1, 2011.

|       | ACA | CMA   |
|-------|-----|-------|
| N5RR* | 494 | 1,214 |
| W1RM* | 443 | 1,008 |
| KZ5D* | 404 | 1,027 |
| W5ZR* | 401 | 896   |

|        |     |     |
|--------|-----|-----|
| R6AF   | 347 | 620 |
| W5SG*  | 344 | 701 |
| W6KY*  | 328 | 638 |
| W4PM   | 314 | 736 |
| K6RB*  | 300 | 729 |
| K4AB*  | 298 | 812 |
| K4GM   | 275 | 377 |
| K6MM   | 252 | 515 |
| W1UJ   | 247 | 527 |
| N3WT*  | 224 | 337 |
| N2UU   | 223 | 440 |
| AD1C   | 212 | 328 |
| KR3E*  | 208 | 458 |
| W6RKC  | 196 | 335 |
| K4AB   | 192 | 282 |
| EA1WX* | 192 | 357 |
| W1UU   | 166 | 289 |
| EA8AY* | 132 | 241 |
| K5KV   | 116 | 185 |
| N5AW   | 116 |     |
| OK1RR  | 116 |     |
| N3IQ   | 110 |     |
| NN6T * | 109 |     |

See you in the NAQP January 8 and the mini-CWT on Wednesday, January 12.

73,

*Art, KZ5D, Activities Team Leader*

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## From the Editor...



I am so thrilled to be writing this 12<sup>th</sup> column in Solid Copy. It means we've been around for a year, and we're still going strong. I still remember so well last November and December when a handful of us were kicking around the idea of a new CW operators' club. What a great feeling it is to see it thriving, and to have been part of the 850 members who helped put CWops on the ham-radio map.

This month there is one CW operating event that I particularly enjoy. It's the North American QSO Party – or NAQP. It starts next Saturday at 1800 Z and runs for 12 hours. Single operators can clock up to 10 hours of participation. What's so nice about it is we're all limited to a maximum of 100 watts – so there are no monster signals holding sway. And, I really like the exchange: name and S/P/C for North American stations, and just name for everyone else.

The multipliers are states, Canadian provinces and NA countries, but first and foremost, this is a friendly event. I like contests with operators' names. It's nice to think “Jack” when I work W1WEF, and “Ralph” when I exchange with K1ZZI, and “Steve” when N8BJQ comes by. That was one of the reasons that we put “name” into the exchange for CWT. The other thing about NAQP that I like is it's relatively short – just a maximum of 10 hours. Even at 64, I can manage that 😊.

So, let's do our part next weekend and put a lot CWops calls and names out there. It's a great way to get a good jump on your ACA score, too. For our members outside of North America, you can participate, and you will get a point for every NA op you work, plus multipliers. The NA ops get a point for your QSO, too. But, to me, it is not a level playing field, because non-NA operators don't add mults to scores. It's another one of the regional contests.

So, how about a CWG? That's a global CW QSO party. I've been thinking about such an event where there are three, four-hour sessions over a 24-hour period timed to favor regional and global propagation on the high and low HF bands. The exchange could be just like CWT – name and CWops number or S/P/C. You could participate in one, two or three, as you like. But, the points and mults would be the same no matter where you live. I see it as a best of NAQP and global CW operation; a friendly event where the world's CW operators can converge for 12 out of 24 hours and have a blast. Let me know what you think.

Finally, now that I've had a year of Solid Copy under my belt, I think it's time to expand the newsletter in a few new ways. Starting with this issue, and every month hereafter, there will be a column (called Director's Desk) where one of our three directors will write about something related to ham radio and the club. I don't want to limit them. This first column comes from Bertram Donn, G3XSN, and is something he wrote a while back about operating CW. It gives us a glimpse of how a ham in the UK might view CW operation and technique. In the following months we will have columns from Shin, JA1NUT, and Vidi, ZS1EL, too. I don't know about you, but I really enjoy learning about what ham radio is like in different parts of the world.

And, one other change will also be starting with this issue. We want social aspects to be a part of this club. It's not just about operating CW, but about CW operator fellowship. To that end, I invite every member to submit a short biography about how they got started in ham radio, what they do besides pounding brass, and so on. Again, I don't want to limit you. I've posted something about this on the reflector and received the following stories. I hope to receive others, each month, so we can all get to know who are these 850 people that are members of CWops.

73,  
Rob K6RB

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### 2010 Financial Statement for CWops

#### Income:

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Club Dues | 9,355.00 |
| Interest  | 2.00     |
| Total     | 9,357.00 |

#### Expenses:

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Bank and PayPal Charges       | 504.00   |
| Education and Donations       | 1,400.00 |
| Legal Fees and Expenses       | 378.00   |
| Operational Expenses          | 690.00   |
| Promotions and Communications | 1,030.00 |

**Cash on Hand**

**5,355.00**

**Education and Donations:**

ARRL Foundation,

Blaine Middle School (Washington State),

2010 Youth DXadventure group to support several youths learning how to handle cw pileups.

**Operational Expenses:**

Software License

Email Services

Survey/election Service

**Promotions and Communications:**

Printed literature, banners, signs and buttons used at Dayton, Tokyo Ham Fair and Plymouth, MA.

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**First Year Retrospective - from Pete Chamalian, W1RM, President**

Just about this time last year, CWops burst forth onto the ham radio stage after only a few months of behind the scenes preparation. What began as “wouldn’t it be great if...” kinds of ponderings among a handful of CW operator friends quickly became the blueprint for a unique, new, ham-radio club. And, my goodness, what a year it’s been! In just 12 months time that handful of CW operators has become a club with some 850 members.

What is really remarkable about its beginnings is that from day one it was a team effort. One person drafted a set of Bylaws; another created a Website hosted by yet another founder; then somebody got the club incorporated; and so on. Along the way, all the early members commented on all aspects of the emerging club. It was truly a blend of ideas, opinions, and actions of people with a common interest of creating a CW club like none other.

By the end of the first month, the club had over 100 members. It had a professional looking Website, a newsletter, and above all, it had a purpose. Ham radio is an inherently global hobby, so why shouldn’t there be a global club? Every other ham organization began in one country or another and took on the imperatives of its local founders, in some cases limiting its management to that one country. From early on, CWops had founders in Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. It began and will continue as a truly global club.

The other tie that binds us is our special relationship with CW. Whether we are rag-chewers, DXers, traffic handlers, VHFers, QRPers or contesters, we all enjoy operating using that mode. No matter whether we prefer straight keys, bugs, keyers or keyboards - as long as it's CW! Doing things that promote and perpetuate the CW art is our mission.

In this first year, we focused on two objectives: to provide funding for CW training; and developing activities that inspire us to operate CW. We established a grant under the auspices of ARRL that provides funds for CW-related programs, and we are actively searching out other ways to provide support for CW-related programs anywhere in the world.

On the activities side, we established the foundation for club on-air events. We began a unique activity we call "mini-CWT" that is a monthly three-hour friendly event featuring the simple exchange of names and club membership numbers or SPC. What is unique about it is it consists of three separate one-hour sessions timed to favor propagation on 20, 40 and 80 meters in Asia, then Europe, then the Americas. In addition, we have created incentives in the form of awards that promote annual and cumulative activity. The Annual Competition Award (ACA) recognizes the number of members each of us works in a given year; and Cumulative Membership Award (CMA) acknowledges all the QSOs we've had with members in perpetuity. Certificates are self-issued.

At the same time, we've been making improvements in our Website, and we've created a newsletter that has become popular both within and outside CWops. In 2011, we want to build on our early achievements with special focus on encouraging newly licensed hams to embrace CW as the ultimate fun mode of communication. To that end we have begun preparing a CD that will be distributed worldwide to "sell" CW. We are also working to design and implement a new annual on-air event that will also be unique in its rules and attract all CW operators. Stay tuned for that one!

By taking advantage of modern technology, CWops has been able to run the club using electronic information dissemination. That has reduced costs associated with printing and mailing, and allows us to keep the dues at only \$12 per year while enabling us to fund CW-related programs.

As first-year members of CWops, you should all feel proud of what your club has accomplished. Yes, we have set a high bar for membership qualifications, but we encourage all ham operators interested in CW to participate in our events. Just take a look at the Membership Roster on our Website to see where your fellow members reside. The concept of inclusion is the hallmark of our organization. Our Board of Directors represents all parts of the world, and our standing committees do the same.

In 2011, we will be expanding our newsletter to give you information about what's going on in Amateur Radio in different countries and continents as it relates to CW. We will also be giving you more information about CWops members in each issue so you will have a better idea of who is pounding that brass on the other end of that wireless circuit. With that information you can surprise a member on the air with a question about a secondary hobby or interest you have in common!

We will soon be publishing an up-to-date member sheet that will list calls, names, contact information and membership numbers for all CWops members. It will be a PDF file that can be

printed and placed on your radio table helping you to identify members that you work. After all, not all of us can remember the names of all 850 of our fellow CWops members!

As we did from the beginning, we want to hear your ideas, opinions, and recommendations. We want you to participate in events and volunteer for committees that steer our actions on activities, CW-related mentoring and funding support. We also want your participation at ham events, such as Dayton, Visalia, and similar events in other countries/continents. Our focus is CW but our love is ham radio and we need to support the activities of the hobby in as many ways as our busy lives permit.

Before another year goes by, four-digit membership IDs will be given out and three-digit IDs will reflect those who were there from the first year. Without you, the hopes and aspirations of that handful of ham radio friends would have been only a dream. Thank you all for making it a reality and congratulations on being part of CWops.

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### **Bylaws Change - from Jim Talens, N3JT, Secretary**

Our Articles of Incorporation require membership approval of any proposed change in the Bylaws of our Club. In place by the time you read this message is a Website URL that will allow you to vote on the proposed change below. The link is <http://www.cwops.org/members/bylawchange.html>. We are allotting ten days for voting.

We propose to change the membership waiting period in Section I.A.4 of our Bylaws to 7 days. As currently written, the Bylaws require a 30-day period from completion of sponsorship to invitation to membership. The Board has discussed this at some length and the consensus is that changing the period from 30 to 7 days will expedite the membership process and reduce the number of invitees who do not respond. (Several have reported that it had been so long since the original discussion that they had forgotten what CWops was all about and put the invitation aside.)

The original purpose of the 30-day wait was to allow objections following nomination, but with instant availability of nomination status on our club Website there really is no need for such an extended waiting period. Our first year of operation strongly supports this revised approach: We have had no sustainable objections at all. Moreover, even in the event a bad apple slips into the process, we have both the 7-day time period for objections and existing rule provisions for removal.

We also propose to include additional language on the CWops Website and in the forms used for nomination and sponsorship. This language will clarify the need for a proposed CWops nominee to have generally agreed to join the club if invited. In other words, we really need current members who want to nominate or sponsor someone for CWops membership to explain the procedure and get the concurrence of the proposed nominee prior to nomination.

Referring the prospective nominee to the [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org) Website would do the trick, and if the proposed nominee then says something like "Yes, I've read the materials and I'd love to be considered for CWops membership" then we are in great shape. Our goal is to eliminate the number of invitees who do not respond. That's unfair to you as members who go to the trouble of nominating and sponsoring somebody, and it's a work burden for those of us who have to track and follow up on what then become unresponsive nominees.

Please go to the CWops Website and register your vote:  
<http://www.cwops.org/members/bylawchange.html>. As these matters are relatively minor in nature, we believe ten days is a sufficient period for voting.

Thank you!

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### **Raoul Coetzee – ZS1REC- CWops 338**



I am small pistol ham who repairs, installs, and provides training on analytical instruments (AA, ICP-OES, GC-MS, GC, FTIR, HPLC, LC-MS etc.). My background is electronics; I understand valves (vacuum tubes), too! My linear is home designed and built.

I started off by reading magazines stored in the garage, from 1934 through 1965. My father used to fix steam locomotives for a living but was keen on electronics and taught himself, just like me, but he also went to college, when he was about 50 yrs old.

I started off by building my first 6V6 pentode push-pull audio amp when I was 12 years old, shocked the living heck out of me! I then used that as the audio stage for my first genuine cat's whiskers MW radio. I was hooked. This led to a pirate AM pop station on 80 meters (forgive me!)

I was never caught and was then doing two years of fighting a border war after 12 years at school. No comment on that.

But, I stayed for about a year fighting a stupid war on the border, doing stupid (read fun) things. After that, I studied electronics whilst doing repairs for a large news company, then joined a small electronics firm, and after some years, went into analytical chemistry.

I am now currently a business unit manager for an international company, dealing in Africa. My best band is 160m, and I've worked 124 countries from a small lot of 20x 43 meters. I operate CW 9 percent of my radio time. I am married and have one son, but I do not think ham radio is on his cards.

I became licensed as an "Extra" in 1992, and am a CW examiner and moderator for the SARL. I enjoy physics studies, electronics, photography, a bit of gardening (lately!) running and sports. I also have been a Karate instructor, studied martial arts for 15 years, feel a bit out of touch, now. I have a lovely wife, Hannelie, my son, Etienne, three dogs, two cats and an African Grey parrot.

I love CW, and spend at least one hour per day working on my skills, or the lack of it. My main radio is FT1000 MP MKIV, Field model, then a FT817 QRP (I love this rig!) and some homebrew TX, plus a replica Paraset, Norcal 20, and so on.

I have a real-estate issue, not enough space for my aspirations as a 160m ham. I have made many friends over the years using CW, and to all of them "I hpe to CUAGN!"



The famous Tonight Show episode where a CW operator (foreground) beat the pants of a "texter" (background). It was no contest!

## Director's Desk

Bertram Donn, G3XSN

Here's a piece that Bertram wrote back in 1981...

# CW PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES

by G3XSN/RSARS NO. 343.

The following story is reprinted from "Jimmy, the journal of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.

Morse Telegraphy is supposed to be the transmission of intelligence by means of the Morse Code. Whilst I do not profess to be an expert, I guess that poor old Samuel Morse must have turned over in his grave many times listening to the amateur bands.

As far as I know, CW is still based on a 3:1 ratio at about 15 words per minute.

An operator with a slow steady clean cut method of sending has a big advantage over the poor operator. Good sending is partly a

raise stations with minimum time and trouble.

## ANSWERING A CALL

After contact is established, decrease the use of call signs of both stations to once or twice.

When a station receives a call but does not receive the call-letters of the sending station, the call QRZ? may be used. It means, "By whom am I being called?". QRZ should not be used in place of CQ.

## ENDING SIGNALS AND SIGN-OFF

The ending Signals, AR, K, KN, SK and CL are often confused.

AR means end of transmission. It is recommended after a call to a specific station before contact has been made, e.g., ZL1AXM (sent three times) de G3XSN (sent three times) AR.

K means to go ahead (Any station.) Recommended after CQ and at the end of each transmission during QSO, when there is no objection to others breaking in, e.g., CQ, CQ, CQ, de G3XSN, K or VK4XY de G3XSN K. KN — Go ahead (Specific Station), all others keep out. Recommended at the end of each transmission during a QSO, or after a call, when calls from other stations are not desired and will not be answered, e.g., VK6PG de G3XSN KN.

SK — means end of QSO. Recommended before signing last transmission at end of QSO, e.g., VK2DDW de G3XSN SK.

CL — means "I am closing down my station". Recommended when a station is going off the air to indicate it will not listen for further calls, e.g., VK4CD de G3XSN SK CL, or SK VK4CD de G3XSN CL.

R. — means transmission received as sent. Use "R" only when all is received correctly.

## REPEATS

When most of the transmission is lost, a call should be followed by correct abbreviations to ask for repeats. When a few words on the end of a transmission are lost, the last word received correctly is given, then send "AA?", meaning "all after". This invites the

station to repeat again ALL after the last word correctly received.

When a few words at the beginning of a transmission are lost, then send "AB?" ("all before") and send the word which was received correctly.

The quickest way to ask for a fill in the middle of a transmission is to send the last word received correctly, a question mark, then the next word received correctly. Another way is to send "?BN (word) and (word). Do NOT send words twice (QSZ) unless it is requested. Do NOT send QRM or QRN when you mean QRS.

matter of practice, but patience and judgment are just as important qualities of an operator as a "good fist". Operating knowledge of Standard Procedures and some "NET" know-how are necessary.

The best operators, both using phone and CW, observe certain operating procedures which are regarded as standard practice.

## CALLS

VK2NLE, VK2NLE, VK2NLE, de G3XSN, G3XSN, G3XSN, AR . . . . . A long call is unnecessary, and only causes frustration.

CQ is the general enquiry call. The length of repeated calls is carefully limited in intelligent amateur operating. CQ is not used when testing or when the operator is not expecting or looking for an answer.

Never send CQ "blind". Listen to the transmitting frequency first. If nothing is heard, then ask QRL? (is this frequency in use, please). It does no harm to enquire a couple of times before putting out a call.

## THE DIRECTIONAL CQ

To avoid useless answers and lessen QRM, every CQ call should be made informative, when possible. Do NOT answer calls not applicable to you.

Amateurs who do not raise stations easily may find that their sending is poor, their calls badly timed, or their judgment in error.

When conditions are right to bring in signals from the desired locality, you can call them with SHORT calls at about the same frequency, with breaks to listen. This will

## GOOD PRACTICES

- 1) The letter "R" is often used in place of a decimal point — e.g., 3R5 MHz) or the colon in time designation e.g., 2R30 pm.
- 2) A long dash is sometimes sent for zero.
- 3) For best results, send at a medium speed.
- 4) Send evenly, with proper spacing.
- 5) No excuses for "poor or garbled copy".
- 6) Good operators do not anticipate.
- 7) "Swing" in a fist is not the mark of a good operator.
- 8) Unusual words are sent twice.

## ON GOOD SENDING

Think about your sending a little. Are you satisfied with it? You should not be, ever. Nobody's sending is perfect, and therefore every operator should continually strive for improvement. Do you ever run letters together, like Q for MA, or P for AN — especially when you are in a hurry? Practically everyone does at one time or the other.

Tape record your QSOs and play them back to yourself. Can you read what you send? If possible use an inked tape recorder. This will really show up your faults.

Not so long ago, I was trying to copy an amateur's call sign. He was sending "VI2ZZ"; what he meant to send was "I2ZZV". This is very bad practice. When conditions are poor, don't continue repeating irrelevancies instead of "Guts". Do not send Name, Name, Name, QQ times — send Bill, Bill, Bill, or Liverpool, Liverpool, instead of QTH 1000 times.



### **Ted Console – K2QMF- CWops 105**

My name is Salvatore Console CWOps #105. My handle and nickname is Ted. Ted comes from my Sicilian nickname for Salvatore which is "Turiddu or Turi". My family and friends, in the old neighborhood, always called me Turi or Teddy.

I was born in 1942 in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, New York at a very early age! Hi.. I am 68 years old and retired from Motorola Communications since 2002. I worked for Motorola for 32 years. I started as a bench technician repairing Motorola two way mobile radios and base stations. Eventually I became a supervisor in a company owned service center and then on to become a service center manager.

From there I became a project manager responsible for the installation of large communications systems. I handled part of the communications system installation for NYPD among others.

I became interested in ham radio when a school friend and neighbor told me about it and about a church in the neighborhood that was giving CW lessons in the evening. We both learned the code and studied together and became hams at the same time. His call was K2QLY.

I got my novice ham license in 1955 at the age of 13. My call was KN2QMF. I was still living at the same QTH in Brooklyn where I was born. My first rig was a Knight Kit T-50 transmitter running 50 Watts crystal controlled which I built myself! And it

worked too! (This was actually a Viking Adventurer that was built for KnightKit having a different paint job but the exact same front panel and so on. It cost less than the Viking – that’s marketing for you – ED). I did get a couple of notices from FCC monitoring stations of second harmonics. That was when the FCC actually monitored hams.

My receiver was a National SW-3 which was given to me by the husband of a friend of my Mom. He was an old time inactive ham. I don't remember his call, or if he even had a call. My antenna was a 66-foot Zepp which I ran out on my Mom's clothes line when I wanted to get on the air! Half of the antenna was inside the apartment.

I did work some DX with it. I guess the sunspot cycle was high at that time. I became a general class in about six months, and my call became K2QMF. I then passed the 20 WPM CW test, at the FCC office in Manhattan, along with the written test to get my extra class license.

I am now living in Baiting Hollow, Long Island, NY about 70 miles east of NYC. I have an acre of land out here and I have two towers and some wire antennas as well.



I enjoy CW operation and spend most of my time in that mode. I enjoy chasing DX and contesting and some rag chewing.

I have two sons that are both Extra class operators (AA2DC and AA2FB) and they enjoy CW as well. In fact we get together at my QTH for some of the contests like CQWW CW and ARRL CW DX Contests as a M/S operation.

My main station consists of a Yaesu FT1000MP MARK-V Field and an ACOM 2000A autotune amplifier. The second station or “mult” station is a Kenwood TS-940 with an ALPHA 78 amplifier.

Both stations are connected by computer control. The antenna farm consists of a TriEx LM-470 70-foot tower with a 2-element 40 meter beam at 85 feet and a 4-element 20 meter beam at 75 feet. There is an inverted vee for 80 meters at 70 feet and an inverted "L" for 160 meters at 70 feet. The second tower is TriEx LM-354 with a Hy-Gain TH-5 5 element tribander at 60 feet for 15 and 10 meters.

I hold #1 ARRL DXCC Honor Roll. I had to work North Korea on SSB for that one!! Hi... I also have ARRL 5 Band DXCC with 160 meter endorsement. I am a life member of the ARRL and I am a member of FOC #1867.

As far as new equipment, everyone is saying that the K3 is the way to go but I am going to wait to see how the new Kenwood TS-590 holds up against the K3.

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### **Ed Tobias, KR3E- CWops 133**

Like most of us who got their ticket in the 50s and 60s, I started as an SWL...searching out signals from Radio Moscow, Radio Prague and the like on a Hallicrafters S-38E. It was just a slight twist of the knob over to the ham bands and I quickly decided that I wanted to do more than just listen.

A ham radio counselor at a summer camp (K2CWQ, sk) elmered me into the ranks of the Novices and in September of 1961, a month after I turned 13, I became WV2VKK. (Try that call using a straight key)! Moving to the Washington, DC suburbs of Maryland in 1973, I became WA3UIY, then KB3YX, and then the best call of all: KR3E.

Ham radio (and listening to public safety agencies on an old S-95) pushed me toward my career. I've spent four decades in the broadcast new business, first working in local radio in suburban NYC and Washington, DC and then for the Associated Press, where I'm closing in on 30 years. About 18 months ago I left AP's newsroom and became the company's first Manager of Business Continuity and Disaster Planning, responsible for making sure AP's bureaus, worldwide, can continue to operate in the face of natural, or man-made, disasters.

On the air, 95 percent of my time is spent on CW, either rag-chewing or chasing DX. My stations have always been simple. I've never had a beam or a tower and I've never run more than 100w output. Currently, I run a K-3 into a G5RV, upgrading from a TS-440S about two years ago.

Other hobbies include jazz (I *used* to play the drums), photography and working with our local volunteer fire department. I'm always interested in chatting about any of these subjects on the air and I hope to do that with many of you soon.

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### **William “Heath” Roberts – KE5FRF- CWops 776**

My full name is William Heath Roberts. My father is Bill, so I was left with the un-CW friendly middle name Heath by which I'm called. I'm dating myself here, but a popular Western show called “The Big Valley” starred Lee Majors as Heath Barkley, and so the story goes my mother was quite taken by his looks. And that is where the similarities end. My age, it follows, is 38...and I'm certainly a youngster among the code proficient. I live in “the burbs” of Baton Rouge, LA in an area called Greenwell Springs, but my Appalachian accent gives me away as a native East Tennessean. I can cook both biscuits and gravy as well as gumbo, and pass them as at least edible foods.

My venture into Amateur Radio has been a short story rather than a novel. I got my license in August of 2005 (Technician) and was almost immediately introduced to its benefits when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf. My path to this wonderful hobby has taken several paths. I remember a neighbor friend's older brother, who was a Boy Scout, was learning code for his merit badge, when I was a kid. It wasn't uncommon in the 70's to visit someone's home and see boat-anchor radios, so this was something that always held my attention.

In the late evenings in the summer, when I was out of school, I would DX on my parent's console stereo, listening to the AM clear-channel stations and "creeeeping" the tuner ever so slowly to catch the French Canadians. As a teenager, admittedly, and for a short time, I and some friends installed CB radios in our cars way before cell phones were widespread. And finally, my path to interest in radio and electronics kicked off my stint in the US Army Signal Corps as a 31R Multichannel Systems Installer Operator and Maintainer. I dealt primarily with LOS UHF/SHF

radio links. I did my duty overseas in Korea as well as a CONUS stint at Fort Hood.

Today I am an Analyzer Technician for a major oil refinery in Baton Rouge. I work in our Quality Assurance Lab and troubleshoot, calibrate, and repair faulty lab instrumentation, including but not limited to Mass Spectrometers, Gas Chromatography, UV/VIS spectrographs, X-Ray, Viscometers, and a host of physical and chemical property analyzers. But please, don't call me if you get water in your tank! ☺.

It didn't take long after getting my Tech ticket to grow bored. I was one of those who was intimidated by the thought of learning code. But rather than let it scare me, I took the challenge, and upgraded to Extra class by May 2006, if memory serves. There were rumors about an FCC change, and I felt it would be meaningful to learn the code before the FCC altered the face of the hobby. Amazingly, CW came very naturally to me, and I was working ops like Rob, K6RB, at CW Ops speed by 2007. Today, it is rare that I operate any other mode, though I try to round the corners off a bit now and then.

If I'm not careful, this will start sounding narcissistic, so to close, I want to share my passions in ham radio as well as my minor accomplishments. Other than CW, I am a wire antenna nut, and as I speak I am devouring *Antennas for All Applications* by Kraus. Being a non-academic, it is an educational read. I love my Scurr Profi II paddles and this is what you'll typically work me with, but I also LOVE using one of my bugs. My station is mostly modest so I won't waste space, but my next major purchase is going to be a fully decked out K3 with all the roofing filters.

As a young father of two, I build it slowly but surely. I will only mention my one accomplishment that prides me most. Just after the FCC's rule change, I thought it would be fun to write a piece for eHam that encouraged Morse Code use. All I asked for was credit when someone published it in a club newsletter or something. This little piece called *So, Now You are HF Active* was printed in dozens of club newsletters as well as the FISTS newsletter, and I was quite pleased to have a positive voice during this difficult transition.

I am very pleased to be among such a great fellowship of hams and CW enthusiasts. This is a great club, and my only disappointment has been my sporadic activity as of late...but my excuse is a toddler. You'll be hearing more of my passable fist in the coming months and I make every effort to join the evening CWTs.

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### **Allan Taylor – K7GT- CWops 682**

I first became acquainted in a small way with amateur radio after having a book read to our 5/6th grade class in North Albany (1957). It involved two young amateurs using morse code to find some spies. Yeah, cheesy, but it stirred something. Shortly thereafter we moved to Livermore, California and, as it turned out, the dad of one of my classmates was an amateur (Ralph, W6ZHP).

Soon I had a simple buzzer made (with my dad's help) and I mastered morse enough to pass the novice test in March 1958. I was 10 years old. The ticket finally arrived in June. By then I was 11. That first callsign was WV6ALQ. Do any of you remember the 'WV' calls? Well, it wasn't my favorite. I operated for a few months without success using a single 6AG7 oscillator transmitter (ARRL Handbook design) and a surplus BC-312N receiver. Did I mention a poor antenna, too?

Well, another local ham (Tom, K6TS) helped me with a better antenna and Ralph loaned me a transmitter he had built up for his son (Rodger, WV6BYB). Rodger used his dad's DX100 using crystals, freeing up the homebuilt rig for me to use. That transmitter was a 5763 driving a 6146 and was 40m only. The power supply was a real work of electronics art. It used a pair of 866A's as rectifiers and several regulator tubes (OA4s??). It would glow in the dark and change colors as I keyed the rig! Way cool! With that rig I was able to actually have contacts (40 cw) and my code speed came up sufficiently to pass the General exam. I devoured the License Manual over Christmas break and took and passed the General exam at the FCC examination office on Battery Street in San Francisco on January 2, 1959. I made several old guys mad as I walked in there and

passed the code and then on to the written test. Now I was WA6ALQ!

Our family moved back to Oregon that next summer. My first 7 call arrived soon thereafter: K7JMJ. Not the best for CW but it was an improvement! We lived out off of the old Jacksonville Highway. Dad helped me put up a simple pair of antennas on a peeled cedar log pole and some 2X4s. Neither of them was higher than 22 feet. The transmitter stayed in CA but the receiver was with me. A nice fellow named Herb built up a nice transmitter for me in a 19 inch rack cabinet. It covered 40 and 20m and used a pair of 6146s. The relatively low power supply voltage (~400V) kept the output down to about 50W but I was on the air. I used a SpeedX bug and the handkey mounted on a Plexiglas sliding table that allowed me to watch the RF deck through it during QSOs. With great effort I was able to work UA0s, JAs, etc., on 40m. My most memorable contact in those days was working VR2DK, Fiji, on 40 CW. It was an absolute struggle but I finally got through and even got the QSL! That 7005.1 crystal did the trick! (Did I mention that the transmitter was crystal-controlled only and band changing was done by swapping two plug-in coils?)

I used that setup to work my first Sweepstakes contest in 1962. It is a tough contest with crystals only... I was amazed at the scores piled up by guys up in the Portland area. I joined the RVARC and participated as I could. I particularly remember a mobile outing towards Crater Lake. There were several cars with mobile rigs all headed up highway 62. We only got as far as Union Creek but did have a good time. I used a very low power borrowed rig and a primitive whip vertical with a huge coil and was sort of able to talk to the others. 75 AM phone. Those were the days.

Anyway, time passed. I graduated from high school in 1964, sold all my gear, and went off to Brigham Young University. I scrounged a rig (Galaxy 3) and operated a bit from my room there but with not all that much success. I graduated with a degree in physics, began dodging the draft, did two more degrees, and finally was to the place where I could own a home and put up an antenna. We were living in Price UT, out in the high desert of east central Utah. I put up an inverted V for 40m and using a Tempo 1 transceiver and a Heath SB200 amp was able to have some great contacts on 40 and 15m. About then I took and passed the Extra license and was able to trade in my call then (W7LGE) for my current call.

Work took me successively to Bountiful UT and then to Pleasanton CA. Raising our three kids kept me off the air for several years in CA, but in 1994 I put up some antennas and began in earnest. My goal was to work DXCC on 40m CW only. It took about 2 ½ years, but I did it! I used the club station where I worked to get DXCC on 20, 15, and 10m. I retired (early) in 2003 and sold out and moved back to Oregon in 2004.

I am partially retired and work part-time teaching math and science classes at Rogue Community

College in Medford. We now live on a two-acre plot in the country southeast of Gold Hill. The surrounding hills make our place a less-than-ideal ham radio spot, but I am having fun anyway. I have up beams for 40m through 10m, wires for 160 and 80m, and plans for verticals 160 through 10m. Since arriving I have completed DXCC on 30m and WAS on 80, 40, 30, and 20m. I enjoy operating in contests. My favorites are Field Day (especially from mountain locations!), CW Sweepstakes, ARRL DX, and the 7th district QSO party. I like to share my station with radio buddies and work multi-op in contests. This past November, Bill, W1HIJ, came up for a second run at Sweepstakes. We managed 1001 Qs and a sweep. Who knows? We might actually take the Northwest division for Multi-op! In the future, I will be venturing into SSB contesting and dabbling with digital modes besides CW.

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## Current Nominees

|               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Need Sponsors | <b>AE4LD</b>  | Need Sponsors | <b>N5TM</b>   |
| Need Sponsors | <b>AE7I</b>   | Need Sponsors | <b>N8RA</b>   |
| Need Sponsors | <b>K2CJ</b>   | Need Sponsors | <b>NS8V</b>   |
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| Need Sponsors | <b>N2SR</b>   | Need Sponsors | <b>WI0T</b>   |

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