



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

June

2013

Issue No. 41



Remember the Ranger!

CWops "CWT"

12, 26 June 2013

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (13, 27 June)

1-hour each session

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

CWA Days

5, 19 June 2013: 1300Z, 1900Z, 0300Z(+1)

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

CWops Officers and Directors

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President: Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)

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

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President's Message

We are almost half way finished with 2013 already. Amazing.

Good news from Dayton: First, thanks to all the CWops who helped man the booth. Second, thanks to the 90+ members who stopped by to say "hello." Third, we had 100 handouts for CW Academy and 100 handouts for CW Open 2013. On Saturday evening, there were about 8 left of each one.

(cont. on P. 2)

As people came by and paused, we would ask “are you a CW operator?” If they said “yes,” we asked what speed they operate at. If it was below 25 we would ask if they wanted to improve. If “yes,” we told them about CW Academy. If they said they were not CW operators, we asked them if they would like to learn to become one. If “yes,” we would tell them about CW Academy.

For those CW operators who said they could copy above 25, we would ask if they were members of CWops yet. If “no,” we would tell them about CWTs, CW Open and the CWops member vetting process. All told, we found many people interested in CW Academy, CW Open and CWops.

I also came home with four tentative CW Academy advisor signups – all folks in whom I have great confidence. Thank you.

During June, July and August I will be working hard to recruit new advisors and get them all up to speed to handle a big crush of CW Academy signups. I want you all to know that CW Academy is the primary feature of CWops that virtually everyone out there really applauds. At the DC Weekend a few weeks back I ran into a former CWops member who had let his membership lapse because he saw no real difference between what we were doing and what FISTS, SKCC and FOC were doing. When I told him about CW Academy, he paid his dues on the spot and renewed his membership.

CW Academy is an organized program for mentoring hams who aspire to learn or improve their CW skills. But every one of you can do your own impromptu mentoring, too. Offer to help someone you know, or meet, to practice CW. Meet them on the air. Offer polite suggestions. Ratchet up the sending speed as the QSO progresses so that they have to stretch a little. If every one of us took just one other ham under our collective wings, we could introduce CW to, or improve the CW skills of, about 1000 hams each time we did it. Think about that.

Before you know it, CW Open 2013 will be happening. It begins on August 31 at 0000Z. There are three, 4-hour sessions, each separately logged, scored and awarded. Do one, two or all three. As with every other contest, CW Open becomes more enjoyable as more people participate. The exchange is simple – QSO number and given name (e.g. 124 John). There are over 10 different logging programs that support CW Open. Every one of you can find at least one 4-hour session to play in that does not conflict with other commitments. Even if you just get on for one hour and make 40 QSOs, you will be making the whole event more fun for everyone. If you don't like logging, then don't log. Just work participants. They will get credit for the QSOs and you'll be helping to make the event more enjoyable. Think about it.

Finally, John, K1ESE and Hank, W6SX are doing splendid jobs of managing QTX and CWT. QTX participation is growing every month and CWT participation has been exploding. If you have not had a QSO that lasted more than 20 minutes since 1959, maybe it's time to reacquaint yourself with ragchewing. Just jot down the number of times each month that you have such a QSO, and post your result via the QTX section of the 'members only' web page. If you have never tried a CWT, see

if you can make 20 QSOs in an hour. No need to log if you don't want to. Just exchange your given name and CWops number (e.g. "Rick 4").

As with every club or organization, there is some attrition. We try to take the time to find out why someone decides to forego paying dues and remaining a member. Usually the answer is "I'm not getting any benefit from my membership." I ask "have you ever done a CWT?" "No." Have you participated in CW Open even once?" "No." "Do you ever have ragchew QSOs?" "No."

Every time someone decides to leave CWops, it pains me. If someone says "Yes, I've done CWT, CW Open and I ragchew, but CWops just isn't my cup of tea," I wish them well and ask them to keep in touch. But when someone wants out and never participated in anything the club does, I feel like screaming "why did you join?" So, if you are thinking that maybe CWops isn't your cup of tea, but you've never participated in anything the club does, please do at least one CWT, or one ragchew QSO, or one 4-hour CW Open session before deciding to opt out. Otherwise, you don't know what you're missing.

73,

Rob, K6RB

From the Editor – Work Some Lids!



I've heard a lot of slow sending, lousy fists and imperfect signals on the air recently. And this is actually a good thing! Many of us recall the "good ol' days" when all the signals below xx.025 were DX or US Extra Class licensees, the average code speed was around 30 WPM and almost no one was slower than 20. People had a variety of fists, some better and some worse, but most were pretty intelligible, even good, even the bug-handlers'. We viewed imperfect operators with disdain and called them "lids." Today, with no Morse requirement in most countries, the average speed across the entire band, absent a contest, seems to be about 15 WPM and many ops make mistakes every few words. (And no, your Editor isn't perfect, either!) If you want a higher speed, more intelligible QSO, you have to go up to the CWops watering hole at xx.028 or the FOC one at 025. And you still might be called by one of those weak, watery, buzzing, slow speed, error-wracked signals that are hard to copy and hard to endure. If your tendency is to see the glass as half empty, then you'll bemoan the sorry state of the CW fleet. But there is a different, glass-half-full perspective: Now that Morse is optional, there are two important kinds of ops that we need to recognize – some are beginners or re-treads just getting their feet wet (or wet again) on CW, and some are just getting older and aren't as agile as they were back in the day. They aren't speed demons or accuracy fiends but they are on the air and trying to improve their CW or just to make a Q or two with it. The newcomers may assume that their commercially-manufactured equipment is incapable of maladjustment or failure. But they may become tomorrow's CW Academy students, then later instructors and on-the-air exemplar. The veteran ops and retreads,

alas, may soon become silent keys. The truly old OMs are doing the best they can manage and that's just fine. They all need our help and encouragement. Some need examples of sharp CW operating practices. Some need a gentle report that their signal isn't pure. They all need our patience as they practice their art. So go ahead, screw up your courage, check your egos at the ham shack door, put on your mentor caps and go work some lids.

This month's Solid Copy enjoys some interesting feature articles in addition to the regular columns: W4ZYT reports on the very successful [CW Weekend](#) in the Washington, D.C. area. W1RM is back from a scary hospital stay and has some good [lifestyle advice](#) for us. I write about my recent [trip to KH6](#) where I met an interesting ham and an old friend who survived a horrific cycling accident. And don't overlook those regular columns which are full of good cheer and important information about CWops' membership, awards and programs.

Dayton!

Dayton Hamvention 2013 is now history and CWops made a good showing. I didn't get there this year but hope to do so again someday, especially if they would follow the lead of Ham Radio Friedrichshafen and the New, Improved IDXC Visalia and move to a larger, cleaner, more convenient, more modern venue! CWops founders N3JT and K6RB led a contingent of many, spreading the word that CW is alive and well. Jim and Rob are also the authors of the new ARRL book, *Morse Code Operating for Amateur Radio*, and they donated book proceeds to our club. Thanks again for this generous donation, guys! Our cover photo (well, Page 1 upper left corner photo) by K6RB comes from the infamous Flea Market and should bring fond memories to many. The E. F. Johnson Ranger was my second radio, right after upgrading my license from U.S. Novice to General class. It got me on AM phone, but I never lost my love of CW. Here's a picture of some of our members at the CWops booth including, we think, Joe KC0VKN, Bud N6AN, John K4BAI, Bill

N5RR, and Rich VE3KI.



Morse on Mars!

Allen WA8IWK writes: "For many readers this may not be 'news'. However, not having seen this last year, I was quite taken and thought I'd share it with those who may have missed it.

"This past week, I ventured to Los Alamos, New Mexico, taking my son, an Engineering student at the University of Michigan, to his summer internship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. His project: working in the Space Instrumentation Lab. Now Max, KD8BVE, may be licensed, but truth be told, he operates seldom and my hunch is that he got his ticket as a young teen more to be able to chat with our family over the repeater from his tent when he was at Boy Scout camp than out of a fascination with the marvels of our hobby!

"Yet his excitement was palpable when he returned from his first day at "The Lab" to tell me about the Mars Rover, much of the instrumentation work of which was done in his department. Knowing my love of CW, he hit the jackpot when he told me about the wheels on this space craft roving the Red Planet. Yes, the wheels leave a trail behind etching the letters "JPL" in Morse Code on the Martian surface. JPL, of course is the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which did much of the work on the Rover. And, the purpose of the CW is to assist the Rover in navigating the surface. But don't take it from me! For those who missed it, read the nice short article that appeared on the NASA website below. For us CW lovers, these type of projects validate our sometimes crazy

preoccupation with a mode of communication many in the "outside" world just don't understand!!!
And yes, my Scout uniform has the Morse Code Interpreter Strip over the pocket!

“For a photo, [Click here: NASA - Curiosity Leaves Its Mark](#)”

Chinese CWops Visit W1AW



On May 14, the day before his heart attack, Pete W1RM (CWops #8), Dale BA4TB (CWops #259) and other Chinese hams had lunch together and visited ARRL HQ on their way to Hamvention. The group arrived in the US on Sunday for a whirlwind trip to Yale University in New Haven, CT, then to Newington, CT for a tour of ARRL and W1AW, then Washington, DC and finally Dayton. As most members are already aware, Pete survived the heart attack and subsequent bypass surgery and is recovering well at home as I write this. For his own take on the process, [see below](#).

73,
Rick, N6XI



CW Academy – Changes Afoot

by Rob Brownstein K6RB

We've been training CW aspirants in a very organized fashion for well over a year now. What began as an *ad hoc* program of matching CW learners with mentors grew to huge proportions early on. Fortunately for CWops and the CW Academy students, Jack Ritter W0UCE came up with a way to train a group of widely dispersed students collectively using an online conferencing program.

There's a lot of work that goes into collecting signup information, organizing the groups by level and time zones, then finding advisors whose locations and schedules are a good match. Jay Temple, W5JQ, began the process of gathering the inputs and assigning them. For Jay, this was a difficult task because his job has him away from home for several weeks at a time, and when he's home, his first priority is his two young daughters.

Jack pioneered our Level 1 program and since then it has grown to become a major part of CW Academy. Jack, too, has been trying to fit in his CWA duties with a busy schedule that includes launching a new ham-radio-oriented business and product. So, first of all, we owe a world of thanks to both Jack and Jay.

We are gradually building a solid team of advisors to support Levels 1, 2 and 3, but we are always looking for more. Why? Because our signup volume has been going up every semester, so we end up cutting off the assignments to match advisor bench strength, and end up with a huge overhang of signups that are months in advance of a next semester effort.

New management

To relieve both Jack and Jay, I have taken over the collection of signups, organizing them by level and time zone, and making a first pass at assigning them. The largest signup groups have been Level 1 for some time, now. Broken into groups of five – where possible – we often need 8 advisors to handle the 40 Level 1 signups. If we had 10 advisors, we could squeeze in 50 each semester.

But the Level 2 and 3 groups are also growing. And Will WJ9B has agreed to manage the organizing and assignment of those groups. So, Will and I will jointly manage all three Levels.

Will, too, is going to need more advisors for his groups. Level 2 and 3 signups are hams who can already copy Morse at better than 10 wpm. Level 2 students aim to get to 25 wpm. Level 3 students aspire to 30 or 35 wpm. Because these folks already know Morse, the advisors are not tasked with

helping them learn it. Instead, they tailor online and on-the-air practices that provide what each Level 2 and 3 student needs. For someone who just wants to head copy over 25 wpm and do a bunch of ragchewing, the practice may be simply engaging in on-line and on-air ragchews while pushing the speed envelope.

Beginning with the July issue, Will and I will combine our inputs to provide you with a view of what's going on with CW Academy. This summer, we will both be engaged in training-the-trainers because there are no scheduled training programs. But, come September, we will be working hard to organize and assign our signup groups.

Current semester

For our April/May semester, nearly all of the signups were Level 1. With students whose schedules changed or otherwise had to opt out, we've managed to accommodate all Level 1 signups, and many of these programs are nearly completed.

At Dayton, several students stopped by our booth to tell us how pleased they were with their progress and our program. Of course, that was music to my ears.

My current group is located in Australia, California and New Mexico. All are doing well and should become active CW operators over the summer.

A work in progress

If we're being honest, we have to describe CW Academy as a work in progress. Because of the nature of it, it may always be such. We're just now addressing the need for some kind of certification. Up until now, it has been more or less *ad hoc*. Although Level 1 has a rich cache of resources to support it (e.g. a student handbook, a syllabus, and so on), we have to come up with something similar for Levels 2 and 3.

Our advisors have been good about sharing new ideas and modification suggestions. In the last week or so I've been finding that the Internet has been more flakey than usual and we are having more frequent video or audio drop outs and other artifacts. We knew going in that free service OOVOO and the Internet were good but far from perfect. But it's the best way, for now, of an advisor teaching a group of five students at the same time when they are dispersed over big distances.

I will be looking into an alternative to OOVOO, such as Go To Meeting, where we are charged a fee but are guaranteed some level of quality of service. If we end up adopting such a method, we will support it out of our treasury and offset some of the costs by charging some nominal fee for student participation. But all that is speculation at this point.

Our hallmark program

People who know about CWops are typically most impressed by CW Academy and its mission. Many people I've chatted with also know about CWT and CW Open and think those programs are good, too. But what really differentiates CWops from other CW clubs is our commitment to training a new crop of CW operators and we are already making a significant difference.

The North American CW Weekend Report

Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, Falls Church, VA

May 3-5, 2013

by Don Lynch W4ZYT

The 2013 North American CW Weekend kicked off with an informal pizza dinner at Joe's Pizza and Pasta in Vienna, Virginia. In attendance were N3JT and Nina, N3AM and Sharron, N2ATB and Rose, W1RM and Bobbie, AA3B and Debra, K1GU and Kathy, K5MA and Sarah, W1UU and Maria, N4PD and his wife, AC4JT and his family, and solos WB4DNL, W4ZYT, N2UU, K6RB, and KR3E. The weather was great, the food excellent, and the conversation spirited and convivial. Many of the participants adjourned to the third floor hospitality suite at the host hotel for further fellowship and a few libations.

On Saturday, Jim N3JT and Nina once again hosted a lovely brunch at their home in McLean. Jim demonstrated his solar-powered backup electrical setup, and shared his station. A number of contacts in the New England and W7 QSO parties were made. The group was joined there by W4PM.

The afternoon was graced with mild, largely sunny weather, and many of the group pursued touring activities and shopping in the Washington area. Late in the afternoon the hospitality suite reopened, and as the evening began, the group met at Da Domenico's Restaurant in McLean for the main dinner of the weekend. We were joined there by W3LPL and Phyllis. All in all, 35 members, spouses, and guests attended the dinner. In addition to superlative food, the restaurant features a talented opera singer whose repertoire ranges from Irish and Hebrew songs to arias by Puccini and Verdi. After dinner, many of the group again enjoyed the hospitality suite at the Marriott.

A number of the group convened on Sunday morning at the hotel restaurant for breakfast before heading out for home or for the final event, a visit to the legendary W3LPL station hosted by Frank and Phyllis.

Plans are underway for a repeat performance next May. We are hoping for expanded participation from FOC, CWOPS, FISTS, SKCC, and the QRP organizations, and welcome any operator with an interest in CW or Morse code operation.

W1RM Returns ... with Advice!

by Pete Chamalian W1RM

First I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers. This was one heck of a situation to be in. At one point I was feeling fine, then some chest pain. So, ...

Lesson Number 1: If you are out of breath after some mild activity or feel chest pain, do not play macho-man. Get to the hospital any way you can and as soon as possible. Carry a full dose (325 mg) of aspirin and chew one! It gets into the blood much faster.

I called my doctor while Bobbie was driving me to the hospital and they told me if the pain got worse, go right to the ER. It did and I did. My cardiologist was waiting for me and a quick blood test told them exactly where the problem was. They didn't walk but rather ran my gurney to the catheterization lab! At some point I passed out – I was CODE BLUE which in hospital parlance means I wasn't breathing! My heart was in some crazy rhythm but thankfully they were able to shock me back to life.

Later, the visiting nurse assigned to check in on me said in no uncertain terms that if I had not been following the course of medication, doing exercise and eating the proper diet, you guys would be attending my funeral and not reading my comments. So, ...

Lesson Number 2: Take a hard look at what you eat and make changes as necessary. There is plenty of good information on what a heart healthy diet consists of in various forms. Take it to heart (literally) and give up on the burgers and fries, chicken wings, pizza, those Italian grinders with salami, etc. Lots of veggies, whole grains (not white – if it's white, it's out when it comes to bread, pasta and other starches). And salt – OMG is that a killer and it's in everything you buy at the grocery unless you are a really careful reader of the ingredients.

Lesson Number 3: Get off the chair and walk. Yes, walk. Exercise doesn't have to mean going to the gym and spending hours watching some muscle-bound brute show off. It means getting your body in motion and your heart pumping. This should be a daily activity.

Lesson number 4: Check with your doctor. If you have not had a cardiac exam (or do annual checkups), what are you waiting for? This stuff is preventable or at least can be greatly lessened by following the guidelines. Oh, and if you are on Lipitor or some other cholesterol lowering drug, it doesn't give you license to eat what you want, thinking you are protected. You aren't! Before all my trouble, my LDL (the bad cholesterol) was in the 160's. After diet change and meds, it's 50!

Lesson Number 6: If you smoke – quit. No if's and's or buts. Just quit and if you need help talk to your doctor.

Lesson Number 7: If you are overweight, get on a program to shed the excess. Just cutting out salt will immediately cut some of that. You have a much better chance of survival that way. Before my first attack, I was 178. Today I'm 160.

Lesson Number 8: Stuff happens. In spite of all I did, and my doctors said that I did all the right things, you can still have heart trouble. The difference is that if you “follow the yellow-brick road” (take the meds, eat the diet, do the exercise) and have a problem, you have a far better chance to be talking about it rather than having your friends reading your obit!

73,

Pete, W1RM

Busy Day(s) in KH6

by Rick Tavan N6XI

On a recent family vacation on Maui, we enjoyed the usual relaxation, water sports and delicious dining and I managed about 75 CW QSOs from the resort balcony with my KX3. Shortly after arriving, however, we got the word that old friend Rob Van Geen NH6V (formerly WB6SHD) had suffered a terrible cycling accident on the big island of Hawaii where he has lived for the past 14 years. Here is the story as I believe I heard it. Any inaccuracies are mine.

An avid triathlete, Rob and two friends were just setting out on a 300+ mile bicycle ride around the Big Island of Hawaii, part of their training for an upcoming triathlon. Rob described it as the peak of their training program. As he rode in the lead through the head of a T intersection, a nurse driving a Jeep turned left onto his road and then, "on autopilot" from years of making this precise approach to her work, turned right in front of Rob. At about 20 MPH, he was unable to stop in the mere inches available. He slammed into the Jeep, hitting the right outside mirror and A-pillar. He flipped over the hood, onto the road ... and then the bad stuff began. His head hit the pavement and a Jeep wheel rolled over it, shattering his helmet into 50 pieces ... 50 life saving pieces as it turned out. Next to be run over was his chest, breaking six or seven ribs. He was unconscious briefly and got some of the details from his buddies who experienced the horror of seeing their friend have a near fatal accident right in front of them, the joy of realizing it was, at least so far, just "near," and then the anxiety of waiting for the ambulance while the nurse (yes, the responsible motorist herself) rendered first response. Rob had survived but was badly injured, beyond the skill set of local providers, so they air-lifted him to Honolulu on the island of Oahu.

Queens Hospital operates the state's (indeed, the entire Pacific Rim's) primary trauma center. It's also the most beautiful hospital I've ever seen, complete with inlaid, hardwood floors, extensive artwork on the walls and curlicue wards that would baffle a champion maze-running rat. Rob needed

every ounce of their ample skills. His skull was cracked, his jaw broken, his left eye socket busted, and more. I spoke to him on the phone a few days after the accident and was relieved to hear his voice clear and his speech lucid. He was already thanking his lucky stars for having survived. Great attitude! After stabilizing for a few days, he underwent nine hours of surgery. They filled his head with plates and screws using techniques I'd rather not reiterate and, by the time I saw him a week later, he was still bloodied but once again unbowed; that is, his facial parts had been restored to their original alignment. The docs had done a great job of putting him back together! Rob is an athlete of some accomplishment, in superb physical condition prior to his vault over and under the Jeep, and that certainly helped him both before and after surgery.

While the post-accident drama was unfolding, Lloyd Cabral KH6LC (formerly AA6T) stayed in close touch with Rob. They both live on the Big Island and Rob often operates at Lloyd's station. I had known Rob since we both lived in Sunnyvale, CA, where he was a high school student in the late '70s and I was a 30-ish engineer in Silicon Valley. He lived around the corner then and I remember insisting that he get his mother's permission before climbing my tower, which he did eagerly. Lloyd was planning to visit Rob in the hospital on Oahu and I offered to come along from Maui. We tracked his progress and it looked like Thursday, May 9 would be the best date for Rob and for us. Hopefully, he would be sufficiently recovered from his surgery to accept visitors. In the event, he was not only accepting visitors but also ready to be released (in his own opinion, anyway)! His mother lives now on Oahu, in a senior community only a few miles from the hospital, so she would provide housing and attention for the six weeks or so during which Rob would need to stay close to his doctors.

Inter-island air transport is extensive and Lloyd and I were able to arrange neatly coordinated flights (in theory) among the Big Island, Maui and Oahu. Lloyd and Fred KH7Y (formerly W6YKM and W6YM) arrived a few minutes before my scheduled arrival time, rented a car and waited patiently for my Go! Airlines flight to arrive, more than a little bit late. We drove downtown and found Rob chomping at the bit and his jaw sutures, eager to "get out of Dodge." Of course, nothing happens quickly in a hospital, so we made arrangements to come back at 2:00 PM after his release papers were complete and his Bag o' Meds prepared. Lloyd left a change of clothes he had bought for Rob and the rest of us headed North for a loosely arranged visit to superstation KH7X, the Oahu Contest Club, its current owner Alex KH6YY and station mainstay Mike KH6ND.

KH7X is a pretty awesome multi-multi in Haleiwa, with six towers arranged in an E-W line down a long, narrow lot on a hillside in the North Shore region of Oahu. They are very tall, very sturdy and very close. The E-W alignment may mitigate their proximity by letting the elements align linearly when multiple beams point more or less North from adjacent towers. Indoors, a spacious "operating theater" (medical reference - get it?) has a position for each band plus a Mission Control desk. Most of the rigs are 1000MPs and there are a variety of amps, mainly Alphas. One position is cabled to be switched into single-op duty. It is all very clean, neat and spacious. Next door, on a recently acquired second lot, is an air conditioned bunk room for guest ops. It's a cushy layout!

After a station tour and a great, seaside lunch with Alex and Mike, we set out for Honolulu to spring Rob from his involuntary servitude. Traffic looked a lot like the San Francisco Bay Area at rush hour and our late start from Haleiwa didn't help. When we got to Queens, Rob was ready to sprint for the door, but they don't do that at hospitals. They called for the mandatory wheelchair. We gathered up Rob's possessions (including a nice, fresh cycling helmet and shades, courtesy of his riding buds!),

walked 20 feet to a table near the ward desk and waited. And waited. Then we waited some more. Finally, a newly arrived charge nurse gave up waiting and offered to handle the wheelchair business herself. She got one quickly. We rolled Rob to the elevator, then to the Finance office (which was just placing a "Closed" sign in our way), across the hall to Admissions which serves as off-hours Discharge, and finally to near freedom at the curb. Lloyd fetched the rental car and we were off to take Rob home, or at least to his mother's home. But wait! He couldn't see much at all now that his eyes had been rearranged, so we went to a nearby mall where an extraordinarily patient Lenscrafters lady helped him to choose a frame and negotiate the Byzantine corridors of optical prescription rules and regulations. One doc had insisted that Rob get his old prescription without prismatic correction but he wasn't authorized to write that down in English (or Latin or optician's numerology, either). The authorized doc was at a different office. Our local lady finally got it all arranged but the glasses wouldn't be ready for an hour. We didn't have an hour. Bumping up against our time limit to catch our return flights, and with Rob running out of energy and previously installed pain meds, we suggested that they deliver the glasses to Rob's mom's place, practically across the street, albeit a large, complex intersection. Miss Lenscrafters said she would try to make that happen at 6:00 PM when the glasses would be ready or, failing that, she would deliver them personally when she got off work at 9:00! In fact, that latter plan is what happened. My next missive after drafting these words was a letter of praise to her supervisor.

While I was helping Rob to negotiate eyeglasses, Lloyd and Fred found a store where they scored three cases of Rob's favorite liquid diet. Normally a training supplement for him, now it's all he can get into his wired-shut mouth (through which he speaks pretty well, considering). We finally delivered him, his flowers, get-well balloons, shopping bag full of meds, cases of Ensure, new helmet and other essentials of post-surgical life to the very gracious apartment complex and into the arms of his elderly and quite relieved mom. It had been a busy and eventful day. Rob was very grateful and we were happy to have been of assistance. It was great to see him again after many years, although we agreed that the next time should not be due to a near-fatal bike accident.

Our duties done, Lloyd, Fred and I once again braved the Honolulu rush-hour traffic and managed to avoid its worst spots. We actually made it back to the airport in time for a beer and our flights, which were to depart from adjacent gates. Although my flight to Maui was supposed to depart ten minutes later than theirs to Hawaii, the airline (Hawaiian Airlines for all of us this time) appeared to have switched the times. We did some final rag-chewing (and hangar flying with Fred, a fellow aviator), said good-bye and off we flew to our respective islands. I had 17 hours of vacation remaining back on Maui at QTH 2 in Kihei, including a final dip in the blue Pacific, before catching the flight back to California with my family.

There was other radio activity on this vacation, such as the casual Qs mentioned earlier from QTH 1 in Ka'anapali in between knob-twiddling rituals with my 2.5 year old grandson. I remember fondly his father, inactive KC6YEW, doing the same thing 30 years ago (different radios). I also managed to survive Maui's infamous Hana Highway to visit Al Couper NH7O. Al is a unique individual, living off the grid and almost off the land on "Kalepa Farm" between Hana and Kaupo. Al explains how he set sail from San Francisco 30 years ago seeking his place on the planet. His first stop was Hawaii, then Maui to visit friends who owned this piece of then-almost undeveloped land. He stayed a while, met his life partner, sold the boat, and never really left. He became caretaker of the property where he still lives. He has installed a windmill, hydro-electric generator and photovoltaic panels to

provide for his electricity needs. He grows bananas, coconuts, other fruits and some vegetables and houses celibate chickens for their abundant eggs. He has a couple of radio towers supporting a variety of antennas and is most proud of his phased wire arrays for 80 and 160 where he is a regular. He runs a K3 to a homebrew, solid state amp. I really enjoyed the visit as well as the long, "interesting" drive, essentially encircling the base of extinct volcano Mount Haleakala. A lot of the drive is on 10 or 15 MPH dirt, graded gravel and rutted asphalt switchbacks, with dozens of one-lane bridges. It is unlikely ever to achieve fully-paved status due to an isolationist attitude and fierce resistance to change among the local residents. Good for them! I made the compulsory stop at the Kaupo Store which has been in operation since the 1920s and sports quite a collection of antique cameras and bottles assembled by the original owner. It's a great drive unless you are prone to car sickness. In that case, fuggedaboudit!

Despite the several radio interludes, it was a great family vacation as well. They forgave me the time in pursuit of my hobby and agreed that the hospital call to our former neighbor was more than appropriate. Our KH6 friends were gracious hosts, always eager to meet their mainland brethren. We'll be back!

73,

Rick N6XI

CWops Tests Alive and Well and Growing

Through the end of May, we have had 30 CWT sessions with 233 different stations reporting their scores to <http://www.3830scores.com/>. Average participation per session has been 51. The biggest session was on 28 February at 0300Z with 66 scores reported. Participation has trended up from January to May.

Scores have increased with participation. Stations are routinely breaking 100 QSOs in all three sessions. Scores for individual stations are trending up. It is fun to work a new station in CWT and then see its score increase month to month.

You do not have to go for score to enjoy CWTs. There is something for everyone. You can get on and make a few contacts with fellow CW enthusiasts. You can get on and extend a friendly welcome to hams tentatively trying a CWT for the first time. Or, if inclined, you can whet your competitive juices and try for a high score. Or, all of the above, all in one session.

For 2013, we will present awards for CWT participation. 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 award, you need 60 points, Silver 40, and Bronze 24. Stay tuned for details on the awards which will be very nice. This will be an ongoing program, but a first-year 2013 award will be very special. Our objective is to encourage CWT participation--you don't have to be competitive to earn points, just active.

F5IN, K1GU, K6RB, N4AF, N4FP, N5RR, NNT6, NW2K, UR5MM, VE3KI, W0UCE, W4TTM, W6SX, and WJ9B have already earned at least Bronze. Nine stations are still in the running for Gold. There are 42 CWT sessions remaining in 2013, so everyone else can still earn Silver or Bronze. Three stations, NW2K, UR5MM, and W6SX, have perfect attendance so far.

CWTs are getting better and better each session--thank you everyone! See you in the next one.

CW Exuberantly,

Hank, W6SX

CWT Manager

From the VP – ACA/CMA Scores



<u>Call</u>	<u>ACA</u>	<u>CMA</u>
KZ5D*	387	2716
VE3KI*	338	1986
SM6CNN	333	2269
K6RB*	333	1976
N5RR	317	2576
F6HKA*	307	1501
DL8PG*	285	1122
W1RM*	266	2482
AA3B	211	3392
W1UU*	209	1244
W9ILY*	188	1320
NN6T*	171	918
N2UU*	170	1610
EA8OM/DJ1OJ	164	1689
WX7SJ*	129	261
PA7RA*	124	890
EA1WX	114	1206
K6DGW*	107	963
AD1C	60	829
W5ASP	30	817
W4VQ*		1146

* = updated data

73, *Art*, KZ5D

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get 1 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.

From the Secretary



With great pleasure we welcome the following new members:

1162	W0OR	Bill
1163	VK3GDM	Dave
1164	DL3DXX	Mar
1165	W6BK*	Dave
1166	W7LXN	Myron
1167	N2ZX	Curt
1168	K9CS	Carl
1169	N7HRK	Rick
1170	WM9Q*	Ron
1171	NM5S	Alan
1172	K6RQT	Ryan
1173	AF9W	Bob
1174	ZL2AIM*	Ian
1175	W4UX*	Jim
1176	WA6URY*	Dan
1177	K4YYL	Art

* = Life Member

73,

Jim, N3JT

Current Nominees

Need Sponsors: K4RUM, KA3QLF, KD4OS, OM0CS, SM2LIY, VE2FK, W4UM, WC3O

Invitations Extended: K2ONP, KN5O, SM5CSS

For more details about nominees and status, check the "members only" on the Website: www.cwops.org

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under "membership."

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a program for members who enjoy casual CW QSOs. Anytime you have a QSO that goes over 20 minutes, jot down the call sign of the other station, and before the 5th of the next month, go to the website QTX page in the Members Only section and put in your total.

The April QTX story comes from Bill N5IR, CWops #799:

"Saturday night, 6 Apr 13, I decided to check out 30 Meters about 0415Z (Sunday). The band was wide open into Europe with very few NA signals heard. I worked my way up the band hearing signals ranging from 579 to 599+. I called OK1RR, Martin (CWops #087) at 0440Z. We exchanged 579s and other radio stuff before Martin mentioned that he played guitar. I mentioned that I play the Euphonium horn. A 28 wpm discussion of classical music and composers ensued. We stopped when his XYL called him for his morning coffee. Forty-five minutes had just flown by. The band was steady the whole time. What a pleasure to copy a good fist under steady, strong band conditions without QRM."

Thanks for sharing a memorable QSO, Bill.

When you find common interests, it's easy to fill 20 minutes and a lot more. Those opportunities are out there every day. Enjoy conversational CW!

Here are the April QTX totals:

Call April CY13

AA5SR	66	78
N6TT	55	183
N5IR	41	150
NN6T	41	122
K5LY	36	36
VE7ALQ	31	53
K4AHO	20	101
WA3NZR	19	80
K0DTJ	18	34
N4SR	15	15
KE6OIO	11	25
N5RR	11	11
K8QI	8	25
K6RB	8	31
JE1TRV	7	50
WA8IWK	6	22
N3IQ	5	14
K5KV	5	39
K6HTN	3	15
W6JMP	3	9
W5JQ	2	14
HB9CVQ	1	3
K2XX	1	1
W1UU	-	7
DL8PG	-	4
N1DG	-	2

We had the most participation and the greatest number of conversational QSOs reported in the club's history! Thanks to everyone for their help and support.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

-30-